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This Week's Line Up



ALL THE ACTION FROM
THE SA & ACT
GRAND FINALS
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Elastoplast

Souvenir Poster Inside
SA CHAMPS - ADELAIDE BLUE EAGLES

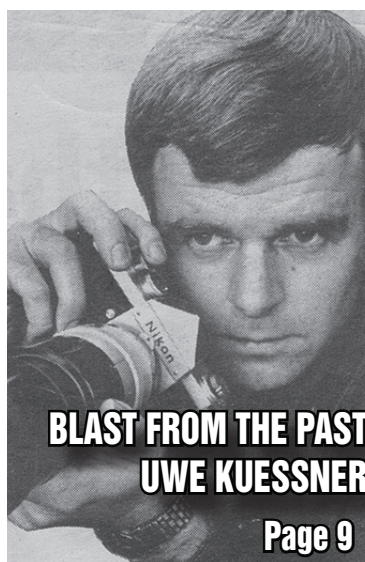


V-LEAGUE ACTION
ROUND 20
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PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



HARRY STARTS TO WAVE HIS WAND
**MINISTRY
OF MAGIC!**



BLAST FROM THE PAST
UWE KUESSNER
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LAST TEAM STANDING
KISS MY GRASS
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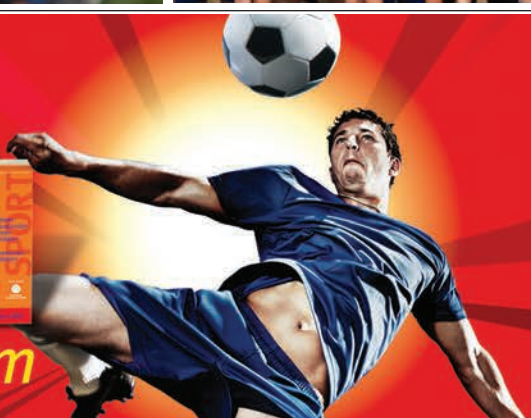
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Harry's A-League Adventure

By Robert Di Fabio

To many citizens, it may still feel surreal that Harry Kewell is actually treading in the city of Melbourne. Yes, it is true. God's gift to Australian football is gracing Melbourne, in what will be an enthralling journey for the A-League's most successful club – Melbourne Victory – it is a landmark period in the history of the rejuvenated national competition.

Throughout the A-League's six-year history, there have been several highlights which have showcased football's enormous potential in a market saturated by the AFL and NRL, depending on the city at hand. Despite the success, there have been many problems which have surfaced the competition, through its lacklustre marketing campaigns, inability to engage with the football community, the problematic expansion process, financial instability amongst several A-League clubs, dwindling crowd attendances and two clubs already defunct – New Zealand Knights and North Queensland Fury – the latter in traumatic circumstances.

Alas, Harry Kewell has arrived to fortify the A-League. There have been sceptics of his arrival in Australia, and notably at Melbourne Victory. Although what Harry offers on the pitch, as well as off is quite remarkable.

From a playing perspective, Harry has all the characteristics and qualities to light up the A-League. His experience cannot be undermined; a veteran of two World Cup campaigns for the Socceroos, whilst playing for some of the more renowned clubs in Europe



Everyone's just wild about Harry. Harry Kewell is already proving to be the shot in the arm the A-League was yearning for. Photo: ANITA MILAS

– Leeds United, Liverpool and Galatasaray – his resume speaks volumes for the talent that he encompasses.

The soon to be 33-year-old has received a raft of cynicism throughout his career, following his much publicised injury-plagued profession. However, Harry is buoyant that his body is in fine tune and ready to showcase his credentials on the A-League stage.

"I still feel good enough that I can challenge at the highest level in football and I want to be able to bring something that people can be excited about. I feel it's the right time for me to come back and produce some good football so that the A-League can be lit up," Kewell professed at a packed press conference at Etihad Stadium.

Despite the pessimism from selected media circles and fans,

Kewell should undoubtedly have a profound impact on the pitch. His knowledge and aptitude are paramount to the Australian game. To work with such an elite figure will be a vast advantage for the Victory players, but also for the opposition, as they too can learn what it takes to make it to the elite status. It's imperative that Kewell can stay fit, and produce the type of football that supporters are yearning to witness.

Off the pitch, Harry is a cult figure within the Australian sporting sphere. Whether a football fan or not, people adore Kewell. He's widely recognised as the golden boy of Australian football.

His marketing power for Melbourne Victory and the A-League are a dream come into fruition. There are some things money can't buy, and I think the FFA have realised this with Harry's

signature.

We only need to reminisce upon his arrival at Tullamarine airport, flocked by hundreds of fervent Victory fans and respective media outlets. Scenes of that nature are uncommon in Australia's sporting culture, although Harry is a totally different proposition.

This was further illustrated with his appearance on the AFL Footy Show. A rival code, yet the panel and audience were fascinated by Kewell's company. The public relation opportunities are immense for Melbourne Victory, as the potential exposure for the club is sky high.

And finally, a landmark moment in Australian football, where Harry Kewell was formerly presented with his number 22 jersey at AAMI Park, photographed and interviewed resembling a red carpet entrance at the Oscar's, wit-

nessed by thousands of ardent Victory faithful. Comparable to the airport development, only someone of Harry's prominence could involve such hype and attention. A memorable day in the history of Melbourne Victory.

Melbourne's arch-rival Sydney FC notably signed Socceroos stalwart Brett Emerton on a imitate three-year contract. An EPL veteran at Blackburn Rovers, Emerton possesses an enormous ability that will likely have just as great of an impact as Harry on the pitch. However, Harry's capacity as a marketing tool is almost unparalleled.

Not only does Harry's exposure perpetrate sublime publicity for Melbourne Victory, it portrays a positive connotation to the club's status within Australian football. Melbourne Victory is envisaged as a powerhouse, a force to be reckoned with. The elasticity between Victory and Heart has further amplified with Kewell's presence – from a status and supporter perception – to acutely give Victory a much greater edge on and off the pitch. Whilst Victory had a five-year monopoly on the Melbourne marketplace, Heart will now have an arduous assignment to induce fans to the red and white of Melbourne.

Since the inauguration of Melbourne Victory in 2005, Kevin Muscat and Archie Thompson have depicted the club's image within the public eye. Albeit, from 2011, Victory, accompanied with the A-League will encompass a new brand positioning constituent. When Melbourne Victory and the A-League come to mind, two simple words will be echoing – Harry Kewell.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio

Soccerex – An Excuse to Travel, Network and meet the Stars

The Soccerex Global Convention returns to Brazil's shores this November with the best line up since the 1970 Pele inspired Brazil XI swept all before them.

Brazil is a country of much potential; not only is it one of the key emerging economies in the global marketplace but it is also the host nation of both the 2014 FIFA World Cup TM and the 2016 Olympic games. The business opportunities available in Brazil are unparalleled and it is a result of this thriving economy, coupled with the nation's passion for 'O Jogo Bonito' - the beautiful game - which makes it the optimum location for the world of football to meet and do business.

The Global Convention offers delegates five days of intense business opportunity where they can network with key global players from the industry, under one roof. Companies from across the globe showcase the latest products and services to an international audience with recognised purchasing power. The ability to conduct the level of business in such a short space of time attracts some of the biggest names in the industry, with 56% of delegates

estimated to generate £100,000 or more as a result of attending.

Networking is the core element of any Soccerex event and results in the average Soccerex delegate attending 17 meetings, collecting 120 business cards and setting up 28 prospective deals. Delegates, exhibitors and sponsors all benefit from a number of formal and informal opportunities over the course of 5 days which enable them to source new contacts and reconnect with old.

The online 'Networking Tool' facilitates business opportunities prior to the convention whilst the 'Networking Cafe' and the 'Soccerex Bar' provide an easy backdrop for meetings onsite. Furthermore delegates can participate in 'Soccermatch' – a structured networking event which brings clubs, federations, associations and leagues face to face with key suppliers.

With premium content and football legends a plenty, the Global Convention will be a hub for some of the world's biggest media players and will set the football agenda through the global coverage it receives. ESPN, SPORTV, Sky Sports, BBC, Eurosport, Fox Sports, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, SBS and Goal TV

are just some of the networks who will be providing daily coverage of Soccerex around the world.

Soccerex is also a great opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the stars of yesteryear. In 2010, Soccerex facilitated the reunion of the 1970 World Cup winning side to mark the 40th anniversary since their iconic victory. Football greats such as Carlos Alberto Torres, Eusébio, Osvaldo Ardiles, Jairzinho, John Barnes, Bryan Robson, Cafu, Phil Thompson, Andy Cole, Patrick Vieira and Neymar are just some of the formidable players who have been guests at recent Soccerex events.

If Rio sounds appealing but is too hard to get to this year you can attend the Soccerex European Forum in March 2012 This Forum also offers the ideal setting to do business, source new contacts, catch up with existing ones, discover the latest innovations in the industry and above all, meet your business objectives, all in one of England's most successful Football cities.

For more information in Australia contact Ashley Morrison Media on 0418 907 478.

Barbieri and Victory part ways

Melbourne Victory's W-League team announced today that it will not be re-signing goalkeeper, Melissa Barbieri, for the upcoming W-League season, opting instead to name talented young shot-stopper Brianna Davey as the side's first choice keeper.

It was, says Melbourne Victory W-League head coach Vicki Linton, 'a very difficult decision', ironically made necessary by an abundance of talent which she says is an enormously positive sign for women's football in Victoria.

"Victoria is very lucky in the talent we have here," said Linton.

"We have a long history of producing world class goalkeepers, from FFA and FFV 'Hall of Fame' inductee Theresa Deas, to Melissa Barbieri who has performed outstandingly for Melbourne Victory and the Matildas. I don't think there's any question that Brianna Davey has the talent to join that elite group in the very near future."

Linton, who is also head coach of the Under 16 Women's National Team, said that while Barbieri was still an outstanding keeper, she believed it was time for Davey to be given a chance at the top level.

"Melissa has been an amazing player at both State and National level, as well as an outstanding ambassador for the

game," said Linton.

"While letting any player go is difficult, we also have to do what we feel is the right thing for Melbourne Victory as a team. Going forward, we really believe it's time for Brianna to step up to that 'number one' position."

Davey has represented Australia at Under 14 and Under 16 levels and is currently in the Young Matildas squad preparing for the Under 19 AFC Championships. She has been with the Melbourne Victory W-League squad since 2010.

"Brianna is an outstanding goalkeeper and, though she is still young at 16, plays well beyond her years and, importantly, has the potential to get even better as she matures," Linton added. "Anyone who has seen her play in the Under 16s, or who had the chance to see her play in the three W-League games she played for Victory last season at the age of only 15, will know what a talented and exciting player she is."

In farewelling Barbieri, Linton said Victory was delighted to have had such a successful relationship with her. "She has been an enormous asset to Victory and I am sure she will continue to make an outstanding contribution to the sport in the future and I wish her all the very best." Linton said.

SHORT PASSES

EMERTON TRAINS WITH SYDNEY FC FOR FIRST TIME TODAY AT SFS

Sydney FC's marquee man Brett Emerton will officially join his Sydney FC team mates today (Monday) when he trains for the first time in a Sky Blue strip at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Emerton arrived back in Sydney with his family on Saturday morning after Socceroo duty in Brisbane and Saudi Arabia and tying up loose ends in England and will take to the field for the first time tomorrow, ahead of his playing debut this Saturday against Perth Glory at WIN Jubilee (Kogarah).

Emerton's arrival, along with the signing of Harry Kewell at Melbourne Victory, has given the Hyundai A-League a massive boost and his presence in a Sydney FC shirt will also lift his new team mates.

JOEYS DEFEAT HONG KONG

The Joeys have defeated Hong Kong 1-0 in their AFC U-16 Championship qualifier match at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok tonight.

The only goal of the match came just after the half mark when a corner from Reece Papadimitrios found captain Ben Warland at the far post who volleyed home his shot from around the 12 yards out for his second goal of the tournament. The Joeys dominated for the entire match, but some dogged defending by Hong Kong in very hot & humid conditions prevented the Australians from extending their lead.

In the other Group G matches Thailand remained at the top of the table with a 4-1 victory over Myanmar 4-1 and Indonesia defeated Guam 5-0.

The Qantas Joeys will next face Guam at the Debhatsadin Stadium on Monday 19 September (kick-off 6:00pm local, 9:00pm AEST).

The AFC U-16 Championship will serve as the qualifying event for the 2013 FIFA U-17 World Cup which will be held in the United Arab Emirates in October/ November.

EMERTON ON THE WORLD GAME

Socceroos star and recent Sydney FC signing, Brett Emerton, will speak one-on-one with Craig Foster on The World Game, 9:30pm Monday on SBS TWO.

Emerton will talk about his move to Sydney FC and the A-League, and the timing behind his move back home. He will also speak about the Socceroos' 2014 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and what it will be like playing against his Socceroos team mate Harry Kewell in the A-League.

SHIELDS APPOINTED

Former Hyundai A-League and AFC Referee of the Year Mark Shield has been appointed as the new FFA Director of Referees as part of the national body's new Referee Development structure.

**Dear Readers,
This is the final edition of Goal! Weekly for the winter season.
We aim to be back in time for the big A-League kick off.
First summer edition is due out on Monday 3rd October 2011. Keep an eye on our website for further updates.**

GENOVA

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as roma



ENGLAND EPL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	4	4	0	0	18	3	+15	12	WWWWW
2 Manchester City	4	4	0	0	15	3	+12	12	WWWWW
3 Chelsea	4	3	1	0	7	3	+4	10	WWWD
4 Newcastle United	5	2	3	0	4	2	+2	9	DDWWDD
5 Stoke City	4	2	2	0	3	1	+2	8	WWDD
6 Liverpool	4	2	1	1	6	3	+3	7	LWWD
7 Everton	4	2	1	1	6	4	+2	7	WDWL
8 Aston Villa	5	1	4	0	6	4	+2	7	DDDDWD
9 Queens Park Rangers	5	2	1	2	4	6	-2	7	WDLWL
10 Wolves	5	2	1	2	4	6	-2	7	LLDDWW
11 Norwich City	5	1	2	2	5	7	-2	5	WLDDD
12 Swansea City	5	1	2	2	3	5	-2	5	WLDDD
13 Wigan Athletic	5	1	2	2	4	7	-3	5	LLWDD
14 Blackburn Rovers	5	1	1	3	7	10	-3	4	WDLWL
15 Arsenal	5	1	1	3	6	14	-8	4	LWLDD
16 Bolton Wanderers	5	1	0	4	8	13	-5	3	LLLLW
17 Tottenham Hotspur	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3	WLL
18 West Bromwich	5	1	0	4	3	8	-5	3	LWLWL
19 Sunderland	4	0	2	2	2	4	-2	2	LLDD
20 Fulham	4	0	2	2	2	5	-3	2	DLDD

GERMANY Bundesliga									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Werder Bremen	6	4	1	1	12	6	+6	13	D W W W L
2 Borussia M'gl'a...	6	4	1	1	8	3	+5	13	W W L W D
3 Bayern München	5	4	0	1	16	1	+15	12	W W W W L
4 Hoffenheim	6	4	0	2	12	5	+7	12	W W L W W
5 Stuttgart	6	3	1	2	9	4	+5	10	W W L L D
6 Bayer Leverkusen	6	3	1	2	7	7	+0	10	L W D W W
7 Nürnberg	6	3	1	2	6	6	+0	10	D W W L L
8 Schalke 04	5	3	0	2	11	8	+3	9	L W W W L
9 Hertha BSC	6	2	3	1	8	7	+1	9	D W D W D
10 Hannover 96	5	2	2	1	6	7	-1	8	L D D W W
11 Borussia Dortmund	5	2	1	2	6	4	+2	7	L D W L W
12 Köln	6	2	1	3	11	15	-4	7	W L W D L
13 Mainz 05	6	2	1	3	8	13	-5	7	L L D W L
14 Wolfsburg	6	2	0	4	7	12	-5	6	L W L L L
15 Kaiserslautern	6	1	2	3	5	9	-4	5	W L L D D
16 Freiburg	6	1	1	4	10	18	-8	4	L W L L L
17 Augsburg	6	0	3	3	6	12	-6	3	D L L L D
18 Hamburger SV	6	0	1	5	6	17	-11	1	L L L L D

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>
1 Middlesbrough	7	5	2	0	13	5	+8	17	WWDWW
2 Brighton & Hove	7	5	1	1	11	5	+6	16	LWDDW
3 Southampton	6	5	0	1	15	8	+7	15	WLWWWW
4 Derby County	7	5	0	2	10	6	+4	15	WLLWW
5 West Ham United	7	4	2	1	15	7	+8	14	DWDDW
6 Cardiff City	7	3	3	1	10	7	+3	12	DWDDL
7 Blackpool	7	3	3	1	9	6	+3	12	DWDDL
8 Hull City	7	4	0	3	5	6	-1	12	WWWLL
9 Leicester City	7	3	2	2	9	9	+0	11	WDWDL
10 Peterborough U	7	3	1	3	14	10	+4	10	WLWLD
11 Leeds United	7	3	1	3	13	12	+1	10	WWLDW
12 Crystal Palace	7	3	1	3	9	8	+1	10	LLDWW
13 Birmingham City	5	2	1	2	8	7	-1	7	WDLWL
14 Reading	7	2	1	4	7	8	-1	7	WLLLL
15 Millwall	7	1	4	2	6	8	-2	7	DLDLD
16 Barnsley	7	1	4	2	5	7	-2	7	DDDWL
17 Watford	7	1	4	2	7	10	-3	7	DWDDL
18 Portsmouth	7	1	3	3	7	9	-2	6	LDDDL
19 Ipswich Town	6	2	0	4	8	16	-8	6	LWLLL
20 Coventry City	6	1	2	3	4	5	-1	5	WDDLL
21 Burnley	6	1	2	3	6	10	-4	5	LWLDL
22 Nottingham Forest	7	1	2	4	7	13	-6	5	LLLDW
23 Bristol City	7	1	2	4	5	11	-6	5	LLDDW
24 Doncaster Rovers	7	0	1	6	2	12	-10	1	LDLLL

...Results...Results...Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

Saturday, 17 September 2011 Barclays Premier League Aston Villa 1-1 Newcastle Blackburn 4-3 Arsenal Bolton 1-2 Norwich Everton 3-1 Wigan Swansea 3-0 West Brom Wolverhampton 0-3 QPR Playing Overnight Tottenham v Liverpool Fulham v Manchester City Sunderland v Stoke City Manchester United v Chelsea	Accrington Stanley 0-2 Crewe AFC Wimbledon 4-1 Cheltenham Barnet 0-2 Oxford Utd Bristol Rovers 0-1 Aldershot Burton Albion 2-0 Swindon Crawley Town 3-1 Bradford Dag & Red 1-2 Morecambe Hereford 1-6 Gillingham Macclesfield 3-1 Northampton Port Vale 2-3 Shrewsbury Southend 2-0 Plymouth Torquay 3-3 Rotherham	Besiktas 5-1 Macc Tel-Aviv Birmingham 1-3 Braga Club Bruges 2-0 NK Maribor Dynamo Kiev 1-1 Stoke FC Copenhagen 1-0 Vorskla Poltava FC Zurich 0-2 Sporting Fulham 1-1 FC Twente Hannover 96 0-0 Standard Liege Hapoel Tel-Aviv 0-1 Rapid Bucharest Lazio 2-2 FC Vaslui Maccabi Haifa 1-0 AEK Larnaca PAOK Salonika 0-0 Tottenham Paris SG 3-1 Red Bull Salzburg PSV Eindhoven 1-0 Legia Warsaw Shamrock Rovers 0-3 Rubin Kazan SK Sturm Graz 0-0 Lokomotiv Moscow Slovan Bratislava 1-2 Athletic Bilbao Steaua Bucharest 0-0 Schalke 04 Udinese 2-1 Rennes Wisla Krakow 0-1 Odense BK	Borussia Dortmund 1-1 Arsenal Chelsea 2-0 Bayer Leverkusen FC Porto 2-1 Shakhtar Donetsk Genk 0-0 Valencia Olympiakos 0-1 Marseille Plzen 1-1 BATE Borisov Carling Cup Charlton 0-2 Preston Crystal Palace 2-1 Wigan	Atalanta v Palermo Bologna v Lecce Catania v Cesena Lazio v Genoa Parma v Chievo Siena v Juventus Udinese v Fiorentina Mon Napoli v Milan
Npower Championship Barnsley 1-1 Watford Blackpool 1-1 Cardiff Crystal Palace 0-1 Middlesbrough Hull 1-0 Portsmouth Leeds 2-1 Bristol City Leicester 1-0 Brighton Millwall 0-0 West Ham Nott'm Forest 1-2 Derby Peterborough 2-1 Burnley Reading 2-0 Doncaster	Scottish First Division Falkirk 2-1 Dundee Hamilton 2-2 Raith Rovers Partick Thistle 4-0 Ayr Queen of South 4-1 Morton Ross County 1-1 Livingston	Scottish Second Division Albion 1-1 Stenhousemuir Arbroath 3-1 Airdrie Utd Dumbarton 0-4 Cowdenbeath East Fife 1-1 Brechin Stirling 2-4 Forfar	Npower League One Brentford 1-3 Preston Chesterfield 4-1 Carlisle Exeter 0-2 Bournemouth Hartlepool 3-0 Bury Leyton Orient 1-3 Oldham MK Dons 1-1 Huddersfield Rochdale 2-3 Charlton Sheffield Utd 3-0 Colchester Stevenage 0-2 Notts County Tranmere 2-0 Wycombe Walsall 2-2 Scunthorpe Yeovil 2-3 Sheffield Wed	SPAIN Sporting Gijón 0 - 1 Valencia Granada 1 - 0 Villarreal Mallorca 0 - 1 Málaga Barcelona 8 - 0 Osasuna Sevilla 1 - 0 Real Sociedad Getafe v Rayo Vallecano Mon Real Zaragoza vEspanyol
Npower League One Brentford 1-3 Preston Chesterfield 4-1 Carlisle Exeter 0-2 Bournemouth Hartlepool 3-0 Bury Leyton Orient 1-3 Oldham MK Dons 1-1 Huddersfield Rochdale 2-3 Charlton Sheffield Utd 3-0 Colchester Stevenage 0-2 Notts County Tranmere 2-0 Wycombe Walsall 2-2 Scunthorpe Yeovil 2-3 Sheffield Wed	Scottish Third Division Berwick 2-1 Peterhead East Stirling 1-3 Stranraer Elgin 0-3 Clyde Montrose 2-3 Annan Athletic Queen's Park 1-3 Alloa	International Match Argentina 0-0 Brazil	Npower League Two Accrington Stanley 1-1 Rotherham AFC Wimbledon 0-3 Northampton Barnet 2-0 Plymouth Bristol Rovers 1-0 Shrewsbury Burton Albion 1-0 Crewe Crawley Town 0-3 Swindon Dag & Red 0-1 Oxford Utd Hereford 0-2 Aldershot Macclesfield 1-1 Morecambe Port Vale 3-2 Bradford Southend 1-0 Gillingham Torquay 2-2 Cheltenham	EREDIVISIE Excelsior 2 - 3 Utrecht NEC 1 - 2 NAC Breda Groningen 2 - 0 Excelsior VVV 0 - 3 Heerenveen Vitesse 5 - 0 Roda JC Feyenoord 4 - 0 De Graafschap
Npower League Two	Thursday, 15 September 2011 UEFA Europa League Anderlecht 4-1 AEK Athens Atletico Madrid 2-0 Celtic Austria Vienna 1-2 FC Metalist Kharkiv AZ Alkmaar 4-1 Malmo	Wednesday, 14 September 2011 UEFA Champions League Ajax 0-0 Lyon Basle 2-1 SC Otelul Galati Benfica 1-1 Man Utd Dinamo Zagreb 0-1 Real Madrid Inter Milan 0-1 Trabzonspor Lille 2-2 CSKA Moscow Man City 1-1 Napoli Villarreal 0-2 Bayern Munich	European Results	FRANCE Auxerre 1 - 1 Caen Brest 2 - 2 Montpellier Lorient 3 - 0 Saint-Étienne Nice 3 - 0 Ajaccio Toulouse 3 - 2 Bordeaux Valenciennes 4 - 0 Dijon Lille 2 - 2 Sochaux Mon Evian TG vPSG
		Tuesday, 13 September 2011 UEFA Champions League Apoel Nicosia 2-1 Zenit St Petersburg Barcelona 2-2 AC Milan	ITALY Cagliari 2-0 Novara Internazionale 0-0 Roma	Playing Overnight PSV v Ajax RKC Waalwijk v AZ Twente v ADO Den Haag Mon Utrecht v Heracles

European Results

ITALY
Cagliari 2-0 Novara
Internazionale 0-0 Roma

SPAIN

La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games <i>Most recent first</i>				
1 Valencia	3	3	0	0	6	3	+3	9	W	W	W	W	W
2 Barcelona	3	2	1	0	15	2	+13	7	W	D	W	W	W
3 Sevilla	3	2	1	0	5	3	+2	7	W	D	W	W	W
4 Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	10	2	+8	6	W	W	W	W	W
5 Málaga	3	2	0	1	6	2	+4	6	W	W	L	W	W
6 Real Betis	2	2	0	0	2	0	+2	6	W	W	W	W	W
7 Real Sociedad	3	1	1	1	4	4	+0	4	L	D	W	W	W
8 Osasuna	3	1	1	1	2	9	-7	4	L	W	D	W	W
9 Mallorca	3	1	0	2	1	2	-1	3	L	L	W	W	W
10 Granada	3	1	0	2	1	5	-4	3	W	L	L	W	W
11 Espanyol	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	W	L	W	W	W
12 Levante	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	D	D	W	W	W
13 Rayo Vallecano	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	D	D	W	W	W
14 Racing Santander	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	L	D	L	W	W
15 Athletic Club	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	L	D	L	W	W
16 Atlético Madrid	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	L	D	L	W	W
17 Getafe	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1	L	D	L	W	W
18 Villarreal	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1	L	D	L	W	W
19 Real Zaragoza	2	0	1	1	0	6	-6	1	L	D	L	W	W
20 Sporting Gijón	3	0	0	3	2	5	-3	0	L	L	L	L	L

HOLLAND Eredivisie									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Feyenoord	6	4	2	0	15	4	+11	14	WWDWW
2 Ajax	5	4	1	0	18	7	+11	13	WWDWW
3 AZ	5	4	0	1	14	3	+11	12	WWWWL
4 Twente	5	4	0	1	13	4	+9	12	LWWWW
5 PSV	5	3	1	1	14	7	+7	10	DWWWL
6 Vitesse	6	3	1	2	12	9	+3	10	WLLWW
7 RKC Waalwijk	5	3	1	1	7	4	+3	10	WWWLD
8 Utrecht	5	2	2	1	9	7	+2	8	WWLDD
9 Heerenveen	6	2	2	2	12	14	-2	8	WWDLL
10 Groningen	6	2	1	3	9	12	-3	7	WLLDW
11 NEC	6	2	1	3	7	10	-3	7	LWLWL
12 Roda JC	6	2	0	4	5	15	-10	6	LWLLL
13 Heracles	5	1	2	2	8	9	-1	5	LLDWD
14 De Graafschap	6	1	2	3	5	14	-9	5	LWLDD
15 ADO Den Haag	5	1	1	3	5	8	-3	4	LWLDD
16 NAC Breda	6	1	1	4	7	11	-4	4	WLDDL
17 VVV	6	0	3	3	6	16	-10	3	LDLDL
18 Excelsior	6	0	1	5	4	16	-12	1	LLDDL



Rovers compound Arsenal's misery

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

EPL
All three of the Premier League newcomers clinched valuable wins on Saturday in a series of shock upsets.

Norwich, Swansea and Queens Park Rangers all enjoyed comfortable wins which was met by an equally surprising upset by Blackburn over Arsenal.

In the early game the Gunners grabbed the lead through Gervinho in the opening minutes.

However, a brace from Aiyegbeni Yakubu in the 25th and 59th minutes, either side of Mikel Arteta's goal and an Alex Song own goal gave Blackburn a 3-2 lead.

Laurent Koscielny gave Blackburn a comfortable 4-2 lead with another own goal. Marouane Chamakh grabbed a consolation goal for the visitors in what has been a disastrous opening season for the Gunners.

Norwich travelled to the Reebok to face Bolton and two goals midway through the first half from Anthony Pilkington and Brad Johnson gave them a comfortable lead.

Although a 64th minute Petrov penalty gave some lift, Bolton could not clinch a point with the game ending 2-1.

Swansea and QPR both shared 3-0 wins over West Bromwich and Wolves, respectively.

Goals from Sinclair, Lita and Dyer were enough for Swansea to grab their first win in the top flight with Barton, Faurin and Campbell all netting for QPR's second win.

In the other matches Aston Villa drew 1-1 with Newcastle and Everton were too good for Wigan 3-1.

In overnight action Tottenham was set to play Liverpool, Fulham were hosting Manchester City, Sunderland were due to meet Stoke City, and Manchetser United were preparing

for the visit of Chelsea.t

La Liga
Barcelona has once again reaf-firmed their legendary status in Spain with an 8-0 thumping of Osasuna the highlight of the league this week.

A brace from Lionel Messi and singles from Cesc Fabregas and David Villa was met by an own goal from Roversio proved only one thing: in Spain, nobody will take the title from Barca any time soon.

Valencia travelled to Sporting Gijon and a Roberto Soldado goal on the half hour mark was enough to gift them the three points.

Sevilla also enjoyed a 1-0 victory over Real Sociedad thanks to a solitary goal from Frederic Kanoute.

In the other games newcomers Granada upset Villarreal 1-0 and Malaga defeated Mallorca 1-0.

Bundesliga
Werder Bremen dropped points in the sixth week of the German Bundesliga, helping Monchengladbach draw level on points with the league leaders.

Bremen drew 1-1 away to Nurnberg which Monchengladbach capitalised upon with a 1-0 win over Hamburger to draw closer to the top in leapfrogging Bayern Munich.

Hoffenheim and Stuttgart also kept in touch with the top three when they grasped comfortable wins.

Hoffenheim levelled Wolfsburg 3-1 at home bumping them up to fourth and Stuttgart defeated Freiburg 2-1 to push them up to fifth.

Bayer Leverkusen also lost ground on the top five with a shock 4-1 loss at home to the hands of F.C. Koln which means they drop to sixth.

In the other games Kaiserslautern were too good for Mainz 3-1 and Hertha Berlin drew 2-2 with Augsburg.

Ligue 1
In the French Ligue 1 Toulouse gained some ground on leaders Montpellier with a valuable win over Bordeaux after the leaders dropped points with a draw at Stade Brest.

Toulouse hosted Bordeaux and were headed for a draw until Riviere scored



Blackburn ease the pressure on manager Steve Kean as they come from behind to beat a deflated Arsenal 4-3 in a thriller at Ewood Park.

the host's third goal which gave them all three points after the game was deadlocked at 2-2 for half an hour.

The win saw them equal top after Montpellier could not score a winner and drew 2-2 with Stade Brest.

Lille also saw the same fate and shared the points with Sochaux after a 2-2 draw which held them to fourth spot.

Elsewhere, Nice defeated Ajaccio 3-0, Auxerre drew 1-1 with Caen, Valenciennes thumped Dijon 4-0 an Lorient were too good for Saint-Etienne 3-0

Serie A
Inter Milan and Roma are still without a victory this season after playing out a goalless draw in Serie A on Saturday.

Both teams came into the heavy-weight clash at the San Siro looking to arrest their disappointing start to the campaign.

Under new coach Gian Piero Gasperini, Inter lost the Super Cup to AC Milan and went down on the opening day of the league season at Palermo.

That reverse was followed by a 1-0 loss at home to Trabzonspor in the Champions League.

Roma meanwhile, under the guidance of new manager Luis Enrique,

bowed out of the Europa League to Slovan Bratislava and lost at home to Cagliari last week.

And both managers remain under pressure after neither side proved capable of finding the breakthrough in a limp encounter.

Diego Milito almost opened the scoring for Inter with a diving header from Wesley Sneijder's free-kick, but the Argentina striker sent his effort wide of the post.

It was Inter who looked the more likely to score late on, with substitute Mauro Zarate and Sneijder both registering long-range efforts.

Diego Forlan went closest to finding the breakthrough when his curling effort from the edge of the box went just past the far post in the 76th minute.

And with five minutes to go, Sneijder saw a shot cleared off the line by Roma debutant Simon Kjær.

Also on Saturday, Cagliari defeated promoted Novara 2-1.

Ribeiro Cardoso Thiago struck the first for hosts Cagliari 37 minutes into the match at the Stadio Sant'Elia, with Joaquin Larrivey doubling the lead in the 85th minute.

Takayuki Morimoto pulled one back for the visitors with two minutes to go, but they proved unable to snatch a late equaliser.

SPL
Dunfermline climbed to fourth in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday with a 2-2 draw against bottom side Hibernian.

Hibs manager Colin Calderwood will be under increasing pressure after his side blew a two-goal lead to remain on just one win from their opening seven games of the season.

Ivan Sproule handed Hibs the lead eight minutes before half-time and when Garry O'Connor netted six minutes into the second half, the visitors looked like taking home all three points.

But Ryan Thomson pulled one back for Dunfermline almost immediately after play restarted, and when Hibs defender Paul Hanlon deflected the ball into his own net just after the hour mark, the sides were forced to settle for a point apiece.

In other results on Saturday, an own goal from Tim Clancy plus strikes from Francisco Sandaza and Liam Craig helped St Johnstone to a 3-0 win over Motherwell.

Dundee United scored a 3-1 win over Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Tannadice.

A penalty from Jamie Hamill and an own goal from Lee Mair were enough

to give Hearts a 2-0 win over St Mirren at Tynecastle, while Aberdeen and Kilmarnock played out a 2-2 draw at Pittodrie.

Kilmarnock silenced the home supporters early on, with goals to Paul Heffernan and Dean Shiels putting them 2-0 up inside the opening half-hour.

But Aberdeen struck back on either side of half-time, firstly through Andrew Considine and when Youl Mawene scored eight minutes after the break, both sides were left with a share of the spoils.

The Championship
Middlesbrough moved to the top of the Championship table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

Tony Mowbray's men had a 65th-minute strike from Dutch striker Marvin Emnes to thank for the win, and with Brighton suffering a 1-0 defeat at Leicester - courtesy of a Yuki Abi goal - Boro moved two points clear of Brighton at the top of the table.

Elsewhere on Saturday, early-season pacesetters Derby County moved into fourth with a 2-1 win at Nottingham Forest.

Forest took the lead through a penalty from Andy Reid in the fifth minute, but Derby levelled thanks to Jamie Ward after 29 minutes and Jeff Hendrick scored the winner 18 minutes from the end.

Neil Kilkenny scored for Bristol City in his return to Elland Road against Leeds, but the Australian would ultimately be going home unhappy after a goal from Adam Clayton and a late winner from Ross McCormack gave Leeds a 2-1 win.

Blackpool and Cardiff played out a 1-1 draw at Bloomfield Road, with Kevin Phillips equalising for the home side after Don Cowie had given Cardiff the lead five minutes after the break.

Hull City enjoyed a 1-0 win at home over Portsmouth, a double from Emile Sinclair led Peterborough to a 2-1 win over Burnley and Reading defeated Doncaster Rovers 2-0 at home.

Old rivals Millwall and West Ham played out a goalless draw at The New Den, while Barnsley and Watford shared the points at Oakwell Stadium after a 1-1 draw.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Barcelona FC have had a sluggish start to the title defenses of both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.

In consecutive games, the seemingly unbeatable Catalan club have given away two goals to draw 2-2, and sustained injuries to key players.

Joining new signing Alexis Sanchez (out for two months) on the mid to long term injury list, is maestro midfielder Andres Iniesta, out for at least four weeks with a ham-

Barca sluggish in UCL defense

string injury.

Barca's injuries could just be a hint that the duel champions of country and continent have had more time celebrating their past season's success, as opposed to preparing for the new campaign, a situation known in sport as a "championship hangover".

With an aging defense lead by injury prone 33 year old Carles Puyol, clubs across Spain and Europe will look to the recent brave performances of both Real Sociedad and AC Milan, who have metaphorically taken the bull by the horns, and tested the Barca defense. Barca's style of play is to dominate possession with its strong midfield, and therefore reduce the ability of opposing teams to create

chances on goal. However, AC Milan exposed defensive weaknesses at Camp Nou mid-week, scoring in the opening minute by taking the direct route to goal, and in the final minute by winning the aerial battle on a corner kick. This may just invite teams to attack Barcelona.

Media across Spain and Europe have highlighted the pressing need for Barcelona to find a long term replacement for Carles Puyol in the center of defense, however, despite Barca's success, the finance department will have other ideas. Barca Vice President of Finance, Javier Faus, had this to say at a press conference; "We followed an austere line, we're committed to growth and we've reduced the debt, but we're still in a delicate situation.

The debt is still too high for us to be able to dictate our future. We can't afford to owe so much money to the bank, and we need to generate more income... The debt has been reduced by 15.5% (from 430 to 364 million)... It's not the debt that we want, and we have to reduce it further, to sustainable levels, with regard to the cash flow generated by the Club. We'll continue to work on it".

All of this at a time when UEFA President Michel Platini is planning to introduce financial regulation into UEFA Competitions, whereby clubs need to prove a profit over the past 12 months, and a projected profit 12 months in advance. Though, there may just be more going on behind the scenes

in the power houses of UEFA and FIFA than most of the general public know. It was speculated this week that Michel Platini maybe set for a shock takeover of the FIFA Presidency from Sepp Blatter, before the end of Blatter's current 4 year term, just months after Platini indicated no interest in the position at Blatter's recent re-election as FIFA President. The trigger for this speculation, may just be that UEFA's participating clubs such as Barcelona, who have made it known that they wish to have more control of UEFA, by demanding seats on the UEFA board. The demands are so serious, the threat has been made by the clubs to start a new European Football Body. Perhaps Michel Platini has seen the writing on UEFA's wall, and planning to jump from the sinking ship of UEFA to the not so much better

option of FIFA, or perhaps it is the European clubs themselves who are hinting to Platini that he should move up, before being forced to move out.

Of course, the latest Barca questions and criticism are not without rebuttal, Carles Puyol in the firing line, had this to say; "We are fine and we are not listening to what people are saying from outside the club... The team was frustrated and it left a bad taste in the mouth (against AC Milan) but we have already turned the page... Before we were not the best and now we are not the worst. We want to win as much as ever but it is true that we need to be concentrated especially at set-plays. We need to ensure that the opposition don't get the ball and they don't score."

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Shocks as top clubs fall in Argentina and Chile

Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

San Lorenzo keep dropping in Apertura ladder in Argentina

San Lorenzo coach Omar Asad said in a press conference yesterday that the 3-1 loss to Atlético Rafaela hurt very much. “We are very hurt. We are not a club to be going down like this. We hoped to come out of our run of poor results. Our fans keep supporting us so we thought this was it”, said the coach.

“Losing was a slap on the face because we had worked really well at training”,said Asad.

San Lorenzo had the chance to equal at the end of the match due to several opportunities gone begging. It is the third straight loss for the Ciclón with its fans tired of seeing the club now languishing in the bottom positions.

It looks as if the team and coach are confused. Key Paraguayan international midfielder Nestor Ortigoza was missing and with a side looking misplaced. Coach Asad hopes for a more offensive, attacking minded side although midfielder, legendary Aldo Romagnoli is still showing his class but quite solitary up front.

Meanwhile Banfield recorded its first win yesterday with the solitary goal from new signing Juan Eluchans. The side now coached by Ricardo La Volpe have won their first game in the Apertura tournament to All Boys in the seventh round.

It was a stunning free kick from Eluchans which beat goalkeeper Nicolás Cambiasso.

“It was a very tough encounter today but we’ve managed to pull through with some disciplined tactical displays. The main thing is understanding what our new coach wants from us”, said Eluchans in reference to La Volpe.

The win puts Banfield off the bottom of the table which is now occupied by Estudiantes de La Plata who today play another struggling side in Argentinos Juniors.

In the other previous match, Arsenal de Sarandí drew 2-2 with Tigre. Independiente are also languishing in the bottom end of the ladder with a 1-0 loss on Friday to Colón de Santa Fe under the signing of new coach Ramón Díaz.Ñublense however of Chillán had other plans.

Universidad Católica and Colo Colo suffer weekend upsets

In a weekend of national festivities, football resumes as usual. Unión La Calera, a humble side from the Valparaíso region in the Los Andes province play at home in Santiago against the larger, giant clubs and they faced Colo Colo.

The Chilean giant club on the other hand are still without the formalities of new coach Ivo Basay with his assistant, former goalkeeper Marcelo Ramírez taking the orders at the moment.

It was a very poor start to Colo Colo as La Calera slipped in two quick goals due to some very poor defending. Therefore the loss by Colo Colo



Time has ran out for former coach Carlos Reinoso, resigning at América of Mexico

gave the opportunity for Universidad Católica to make way and reach the second spot of the Clausura table. Southern side Ñublense however of Chillán had other plans

The first half was disastrous. It was Ñublense who had the more chances, playing at home at their beautifully designed Nelson Oyarzún stadium.

Just after the half hour mark, Ali Manoucheri took full advantage of a rebound from a resulting corner and put the home side one-nil up.

Católica did not want to show any signs of giving up. The side coach by legend Mario Lepe has not convinced and even though qualifying for the Copa Sudamericana round of 16, have been playing poorly.

It was a poor 2-0 loss in the end with Lucas Concistre putting the nail in the coffin. Universidad Católica therefore sit on fourth spot in the table with 14 points whereas Ñublense tallied three very valuable points coming out of the bottom end of the table with just seven.

Maradona and Batista in corruption allegations

Diego Maradona, who this week accused his successor as Argentina coach Sergio Batista of accepting bribes, is also tainted by corruption, according to a claim made here on Saturday.

Gabriel Buono, Maradona’s former private secretary, made the accusation, saying of his ex boss: “He talks about bribes but if you are looking for someone who is corrupt the first person is Maradona - I’ve got all the evidence.”

Maradona caused a stir on Thursday when alleging that Batista had taken bribes to include certain players in the national team.

Batista was sacked after July’s Copa America flop on home soil having only replaced Maradona following the 2010 World Cup, which ended in a quarter-final thrashing by Germany.

He had already been in the Argentine coaching set-up before taking over from Maradona as coach of the senior side having led the Olympic squad to glory at the 2008 Games.

Batista responded by threatening legal action against Maradona, now coach of UAE club Al Wasl, for telling TyC Sports broadcaster that “after we (Maradona and his entourage) took over the team there was an end to bribes”.

Maradona suggested that certain ar-

rangements had been in place to give certain players guarantees before he stamped out the practice.

Batista strongly rejected Maradona’s allegations and said he would take legal action to counter Maradona’s “falsehoods (which are) a product of resentment” at being ousted as national coach.

Brazil in a race against time

Brazil coach Mano Menezes has admitted that he faces a race against time to turn his side into genuine contenders to win the 2014 World Cup on home soil.

“We have to acknowledge that Brazil are not playing the best football in the world just now and that is the way it has been for some time now,” Menezes said in an interview with the magazine Veja, in which he also admitted that Germany have set the example to follow.

“The Germans started a gradual process of renovation that has seen them improve over a number of years, and it is about time Brazil did the same thing,” he continued.

“I am running against the clock, but there is still time to create a winning team.”

Quarter-finalists at the recent Copa America, Brazil will not be involved in the long South American qualifying campaign for the 2014 World Cup finals because they qualify directly as hosts.

Last Thursday, the Brazilians drew 0-0 with Argentina in a game that saw both sides feature line-ups comprised entirely of home-based players.

The highlight of the match was Leandro Damião who performed a stunning bicycle, FIFA-like on console games beating three Argentinean defenders to later hit the post.

Brasileirão championship update

Vasco da Gama took the lead in Brazil’s Serie A following a 4-0 victory over Gremio on Saturday, as São Paulo and Goianiense also won.

First-half goals from Elton and Diego Souza set Vasco on course for victory at the São Januario stadium.

Eder Luis made it 3-0 six minutes into the second half, and Vagner netted just past the hour mark to complete the scoring for the home side.

Vasco move top by one point ahead of São Paulo, who also won 4-0 at home in their match against Ceará.

The visitors held São Paulo goalless for much of the first half at the massive Morumbi stadium and appeared

set to reach the break with a clean sheet intact.

Casemiro claimed a third on 66 minutes, with veteran Rivaldo wrapping up the scoring 18 minutes from time. But first Juan and then Ivan Piris breached the Ceará defence in the last three minutes of the half, making it 2-0 to São Paulo. São Paulo are second, one point ahead of Corinthians, who can reclaim first place if they defeat Santos today on Monday.

In the other match yesterday, Goianiense defeated bottom side Atlético Mineiro 1-0, with Vitor Junior scoring the only goal of the match a minute past the hour mark at the Serra Dourada stadium.

Goianiense are up to eighth in the table, while Atlético languish in last place, already six points from safety and with just three wins to show for 23 matches played.

Copa Sudamericana update

The all-Colombian tie was a thriller as Deportivo Cali managed a 1-1 draw on the road in the country’s capital in their second-round first leg to Bogotá’s Independiente de Santa Fe.

Argentine midfielder Omar Pérez put hosts Santa Fe ahead from the penalty spot just before the hour mark at the “El Campín” iconic stadium.

Midfielder Breiner Belalcázar struck with three minutes remaining to snatch a draw and what could prove to be a vital away goal for Deportivo.

Santa Fe played the numerical advantage after snatching the opening goal from the resulting penalty kick as Paraguayan defender Germán Centurión was brought down by Germán Mera of Deportivo Cali.

The home side coached by Arturo Boyacá made Deportivo Cali’s goalkeeper Leandro Castellanos pay and had a busy night with shots firing from all angles by Venezuelan Jonathan Copete, Omar Pérez and Argentinean Sergio Galván Rey.

This gave Jorge Cruz’s Deportivo Cali side plenty of fire to add in the second half as their first half was put under pressure. This time it was their turn firing at goalkeeper Camilo Vargas of Santa Fe but he too was up for the task.

From then on, Santa Fe dominated proceedings and launched a scathing attack where Pérez scored and delighted the 10,000 crowd at the Bogotá stadium.

When it looked all but sealed for



Unión Santa Fe still in the hunt after a late-minute equaliser to Deportivo Cali in an all-Colombian affair last week in the Copa Sudamericana

Santa Fe took possession once again where Belalcázar fired home and Vargas was unable to contain the shot locking the match at one apiece.

The two Colombian sides meet again at the Pascual Guerrero stadium of Cali where proceedings continue next week in next Friday’s second leg.

The resulting successful Colombian side is to meet Brazilian outfit Botafogo in the round of 16 with a place in the last 16 up for grabs.

Olimpia hold a slim advantage in their Copa Sudamericana second-round tie against Emelec following a 2-1 victory in Thursday’s first leg.

Paraguayan club Olimpia led through a goal from Colombian midfielder Vladimir Marín in the 15th minute of the match at the Manuel Ferreira stadium.

The Ecuadorian visitors leveled courtesy of Uruguayan Nicolás Vigneri’s goal five minutes before half-time.

Olimpia of Paraguay had quite an ordinary performance barely dominating its opposition. It was more credit to the visiting side who worked harder throughout the match.

Zeballos and Caballero played rusty in the Olimpia defence line however both provided enough cover to slid the ball in midfield for Marín to score from at least 30 metres out.

The Ecuadorians kept their tactical discipline and insisted in providing three in attack headed by Marcos Caicedo on the left wing to try to break the Paraguayans’ pressure.

Uruguayan Vigneri made full advantage of a poor clearance from the home side defence which had denied fellow countryman José Franco his chance to score.

It was thanks to Olimpia’s Uruguayan goalkeeper Martín Silva who denied Emelec from scoring earlier on. In the second half, Emelec gained momentum and outplayed Olimpia however they lacked the finishing due to the heavy marking by the Paraguayans.

Brian Lugo came on as a late substitute for Caicedo and the Uruguayan further cemented Silva in goals as the man of the match pulling off some remarkable saves.

Colombian midfielder Marín however was on target again to claim a brace with 20 minutes remaining, ensuring Olimpia take a slender lead into next Wednesday’s return leg that looks very promising in Guayaquil.

Universitario overcame a one-man

deficit to defeat Anzoátegui 2-0 in their Copa Sudamericana second-round clash on Wednesday.

Leading 2-1 after their first leg in Venezuela, Peruvian giants Universitario were on the back foot when midfielder Martín Morel was sent off in the 57th minute for foul language and complaining to the match referee.

Just shortly before the sending off, Universitario missed a penalty by Morel himself.

But the hosts continued to soldier on unperturbed by the numerical disadvantage as Manuel Ruidíaz tapped from close range from a cross. Ruidíaz did appear offside initially only to score from a rebound of the goalkeeper.

Argentinean Pablo Vitti scored from a blasting, curling free-kick to round off the two second-half goals and complete a 4-1 aggregate victory.

The qualification for Universitario ensures a tie against Argentina’s Godoy Cruz of Mendoza.

Key player and Peruvian international Johan Fano insists his side aims to reach the final of Copa Sudamericana. Fano confirmed during the post-match press conference that his injury on his right knee during the match will face a personal test in order to recover for the next round.

“I hope the injury isn’t as feared so to play away in Mendoza in two weeks as it will be an important match for the club”, said the Peruvian international.

Universitario has been under scrutiny of late as the club battles through financial trouble and its players remain unpaid for over three months.

BREAKING NEWS

América announced the resignation of coach Carlos Reinoso after a run of poor results in the Mexican Clausura championship.

The Chilean club legend expressed his disappointment in not achieving the results he wished for. He did say however he desired to do the best he could for a club he has represented for many years and loves dearly.

After the loss to lowly Jaguares de Chiapas on the weekend and a string of poor results, it has been decided that Reinoso will longer be at the helm of undoubtedly Mexican most popular football club.

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MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

FOR A moment deep into injury time Langwarrin goalkeeper Michael Sivulja held the fate of his club, Southern Stars, Port Melbourne and Western Suburbs firmly in his grasp.

Six weeks earlier what seemed improbable to most and impossible to some now was a distinct possibility for Langwarrin had avoided direct relegation and now was a near certainty to avoid a third-last finish in State One and the dreaded play-off against the best runner-up from State Two.

The home team had come back from the dead to level at 3-3 with Southern Stars at Lawton Park on Saturday, a result that pushed Suburbs into third last place on the league ladder.

It also promoted Port Melbourne Sharks and denied coach Dean Hennessy and his players the chance to create history and get Southern Stars into Premier League ranks for the first time.

But no-one watching one of the most gripping contests I have seen at any level could predict what was about to happen.

Sivulja, an ex-Southern Stars custodian, had grabbed the ball and had a decision to make. To everyone watching it was a no-brainer. He simply had to keep possession and run down the clock because no more than a minute remained.

Sivulja thought otherwise. He made what must surely be the worst decision of his career by quickly launching the ball downfield, so far in fact that it was grabbed by his opposite number, Robbie Acs, and immediately sent back into the Southern Stars forward line.

And seconds after Sivulja's inexplicable action a mix-up at the back enabled Chris Greechan to prod the ball into an unguarded goal and write his name into the history books as the man who got the Stars into the VPL.

The irony was not lost on a number of onlookers for Greechan's father Kit and Langwarrin head coach Gus Macleod are former teammates and long-time friends.

The scenes of unbridled joy among the Langy faithful had quickly dissipated into disbelief and anguish. Their Southern Stars counterparts who seconds before were in mourning were now in full triumphal mode.

Then the final whistle went leaving Hennessy to contemplate a successful campaign to add to the many he can list on his growing résumé.

There are not many coaches out there who have won promotion to the VPL with four different clubs – Essendon, Richmond, Bentleigh Greens and now Southern Stars.

"I've been involved in football for a long time now but I've never ever seen anything like that," said Hennessy after the match.

"When Langwarrin equalised people around me were in tears and then suddenly we were back in front and you could see just what it meant to people. The scenes were unbelievable."

And now Macleod has to prepare for a cut-throat clash in a fortnight's time.

Sivulja is one of six Langwarrin players named in a Peninsula Select squad to take on Melbourne Heart on Saturday at Lawton Park but it would be a surprise

if any of them played given the sudden switch in their club's focus.

Sivulja took over at Langwarrin from ex-South Melbourne star Chris Jones who retired at the end of last season and he has fought an uphill battle trying to match the feats of his predecessor.

Then again, they always were going to be massive boots to fill.

But Sivulja will get his shot at redemption soon against either Box Hill United or Whittlesea Ranges who'll square off this weekend for the right to do battle with Langwarrin for the remaining spot in next season's First Division.

Langwarrin fans will be hoping that their number one keeper grasps this opportunity with both hands and holds onto it a lot longer than he held onto the ball during that fateful moment last Saturday.

FFV no to Webster
FFV's registrations department denied Dandenong Thunder goalkeeper Stuart Webster from a very healthy payday last weekend.

Webster had agreed a deal to play for Bulleen in the last game of the season and the Italian-backed outfit made a bold bid to register him.

Well, given that Bulleen, Langwarrin, Sunshine George Cross and Western Suburbs were all in a battle to avoid finishing third last in State One, maybe the adjective "controversial" is more appropriate than "bold" to describe the Bulleen bid.

The people I spoke to at those rival clubs had far stronger words to describe Bulleen's actions and the expression "f-----g disgrace" was a common denominator.

My understanding is that Bulleen's application to sign Webster was based upon not having a back-up goalkeeper available.

Senior keeper Patrick Ndongo had been sent off against Southern Stars in the previous match held under lights at Kingston Heath.

Teenager Chris Ailakis took over in goal that night but the problem the club faced was that third-choice keeper Alistair Bray was unavailable due to injury so Ailakis had no back-up.

Mind you, the term "back-up" becomes a joke when you realise that had Webster been allowed to register he would have taken over as first choice keeper.

Webster wouldn't be drawn into comment about the reported \$1500 match payment he was rumoured to be offered but once FFV knocked back the application that was the end of the matter.

But two strange things happened as I pursued this story last week.

I phoned Bulleen to get their take on this issue but got nowhere fast.

"Yes, I'm in charge of the soccer side of things," said club administrator Karen Daley.

I told Daley about the club's attempt to sign Webster but the conversation was brief due to her response.

"I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about out. Hang on. I'll get someone to talk to you," she said.

Some time later a man spoke to me.

"Hi, I'm Adam. I'm the liaison officer. How



Port Melbourne missed its chance to play VPL football next season after an eventful last day of the season which also saw Langwarrin consigned to the relegation play offs. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

can I help you?"
I told Adam what I'd told Daley but he was just as perplexed.

"I don't know anything about this. Give me your number and I'll get someone from the club to contact you."

So I gave Adam my mobile number. That was last Wednesday and I'm so glad that I didn't hold my breath.

The second odd thing that happened was when I contacted the FFV media department on the same day and presented a series of questions concerning Bulleen's bid to register Webster.

I was told that a decision would not be made until Friday, a message FFV also passed on to interested clubs such as Langwarrin, Sunshine George Cross and Western Suburbs who made a series of calls and left the federation under no doubt as to their take on this matter.

But Webster told me last Friday when the decision was officially released that he and Bulleen knew midweek that the application to register him had been rejected.

"I got a call from John Waddell (Bulleen assistant coach) on Wednesday night saying that FFV had knocked them back," said Webster.

So why did the rest of us have to wait until Friday afternoon to find out what had been decided 48 hours earlier?

Irvine off to Slovenia
JACKSON Irvine is in Slovenia preparing for a five-day international campaign with Scotland's under-19s. If the Lysterfield 18-year-old thought that life couldn't get more exciting when recently given a contract extension and made captain of Celtic's under-19s then he was wrong.

Last week he was named by manager Billy Stark in the 18-man Scotland squad to face Slovenia, Wales and Belgium

in their UEFA Group 8 qualifying series starting on Wednesday.

He was still on cloud nine over his good news at club level when the invite to train with the Scots came out of the blue. "Yes, obviously I'm delighted to have been included in the Scotland squad. I've never had any recognition at national level before so it's pretty exciting to have the chance to represent Scotland," said the former Frankston Pines star.

"I was invited to the Australian under-18 matches held in Japan earlier in August but I chose not to go because of my first league game for Celtic and our first (under-19) European game against Marseille were being played in that same week.

"To have had no international recognition in my career and then to have two countries asking me to play was pretty overwhelming."

Here's the full Scotland squad:
Goalkeepers: Jordan Archer (Tottenham Hotspur), Jack Hamilton (Heart of Midlothian).

Defenders: Liam Caddis (St Johnstone), Marcus Fraser (Celtic), Jack Grimmer (Aberdeen), Fraser Kerr (Birmingham City), Kyle McAusland (Rangers), Clark Robertson (Aberdeen).

Midfielders: Jack Blake (Nottingham Forest), Fraser Fyvie (Aberdeen), Jason Holt (Heart of Midlothian), Jackson Irvine (Celtic), Callum McGregor (Celtic), Callum Tapping (Heart of Midlothian).

Forwards: Leighton McIntosh (Dundee), Rory McKenzie (Kilmarnock), David Smith (Heart of Midlothian), Anthony Watt (Celtic).

Scotland faces the host nation on Wednesday in Bistrica, Wales on Friday in Bistrica and Belgium on Monday in Ptuj.



Hold it, hug it, do whatever you want but don't let the ball go back into play too soon. Langwarrin goalkeeper Michael Sivulja. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.



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Eastern Lions Luncheon



Bill Blackley, Ted Guy, Graeme O'Neill, Alex Wilson with Clive Smith and Nigel Reed in the front.



Alex Rusmir, Bill Morrey, Alistair Wright, Atha Pavlou, Kon Pavlou.



John McPhee, Norm Willcocks and Stuart Mc Carthur.



Eastern Lions Soccer Club held a memorial lunch for their last game of the season. The lunch commemorated one of their lifetime members Mr Clive Wright who passed away on 30 August after a battle with cancer.

His great friend and lunch partner Mr Ian Grant told the audience many funny antidotes about Clive and also advised of the many watering holes they have enjoyed together.

Past players and legends of the club attended plus many friends

Clive's wife Coralie thanked everybody for the many good times and great friendships at Eastern Lions.

The Reserve team won their game 3 – 0 which secured them the championship.

After a short celebration the Seniors and Reserves of both clubs held a minutes silence for Clive.

The Seniors went on to complete their season with a 0 - 0 draw against Diamond Valley - Eastern Lions finish 4th in the league. Last week the Under 18s won their Championship making this a very successful season for the club.

I would personally like to thank everybody for making the lunch a success, for Diamond Valley, Scotch Old Boys and Fitzroy Soccer clubs for participating in what was a special day at our club for a very special person.

RIP Clive

Norm Willcocks
President
Eastern Lions

WAG OF THE WEEK



Romanella Amato Age: 26
Scored with Javier Saviola (Benfica)

Couch Potato Dept.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday September 19th
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Sunday September 25th
10:30 AM Football Asia

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature

12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

SBS TWO
Monday September 19th
09:30 PM The World Game

3i tv now!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 19-Sep
Bundesliga Round 6 Schalke v Bayern Munich 2:45am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 6 Lyon v Marseille 4:55am LIVE
Primera Division Round 7 Lanus v Boca Juniors 7:05am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 6 Hannover v Dortmund 9:15am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 6 PSV v Ajax 11am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 6 Evian v PSG 4:00pm 1st Airing

Wednesday 21-Sep
Ligue 1 Round 7 Bordeaux v Lille 4:55am LIVE

Thursday 22-Sep
Scottish League Cup Round of 16 Ross County v Celtic 4:10am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 7 PSG v Nice 6:15am 1st Airing
Copa Sudamericana 2nd Stage 2nd Leg Nacional v Universidad de Chile 8:10am LIVE
Primera Division Round 8 Racing v Newell's Old Boys 10:10am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 7 Caen v Lyon 3:00pm 1st Airing

Friday 23-Sep
Ligue 1 Round 7 St Etienne v Toulouse 4:15am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 8 Boca Juniors v Estudiantes 10:10am LIVE

Saturday 24-Sep
Bundesliga Round 7 Stuttgart v Hamburg 4:25am LIVE
Primera Division Round 9 TBC LIVE
J-League Round 27 Yokohama F Marinos v Vegalta Sendai 4:00pm LIVE
Scottish Premier League Round 9 Dunfermline v Rangers 9:40pm LIVE
Scottish Premier League Round 9 Celtic v Inverness 11:55pm LIVE

Sunday 25-Sep
Bundesliga Round 7 Bayern Munich v Leverkusen 2:25am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 7 Ajax v Twente 4:40am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 8 Lyon v Bordeaux 6:45am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 8 Montpellier v PSG 5:15pm 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 9 St Johnstone v Hearts 8:55pm LIVE
Bundesliga Round 7 Cologne v Hoffenheim 11:25pm LIVE

Monday 26-Sep
Bundesliga Round 7 Werder Bremen v Hertha Berlin 1:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 8 Rennes v St Etienne 4:55am LIVE
Primera Division Round 9 TBC LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 8 Brest v Ajaccio 8:45am 1st Airing

one

Tuesday 20th September
02:30 am Arsenal TV Blackburn V Arsenal
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Newcastle United V Chelsea 5th Round 04/05
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 3: Inter V Roma

Wednesday 21st September
02:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Tottenham
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Newcastle United V Everton 6th Round 98/99
06:00 am Serie A Matchday 3: Udinese V Fiorentina

Thursday 22nd September
02:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 7: Bayer Leverkusen V F.C Koln
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 7
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Manchester United V Newcastle United Final 98/99

Friday 23rd September
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 4

Saturday 24th September
02:00 am Arsenal TV Carling Cup Archive Match
05:00 am FA Cup Classics Leicester City V Tottenham Hotspur 3rd Round 05/06

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
ALL GAMES LIVE

Sat Sep 24 Manchester City v Everton	9.38 pm
Sat Sep 24 Liverpool v Wolves	11.53 pm
Sat Sep 24 Arsenal v Bolton	11.53 pm
Viewers Choice	
Sat Sep 24 Chelsea v Swansea	11.53 pm
Viewers Choice	
Sat Sep 24 Newcastle v Blackburn	11.53 pm
Viewers Choice	
Sat Sep 24 Wigan v Tottenham	11.53 pm
Viewers Choice	
Sun Sep 25 Stoke v Manchester United	2.23 am
Sun Sep 25 West Brom v Fulham	9.00 am
DELAY	
Mon Sep 26 QPR v Aston Villa	12.53 am
Tue Sep 27 Norwich v Sunderland	4.53 am

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP LIVE

Tue Sep 20 Ipswich v Coventry	4.30 am
Sat Sep 24 Brighton v Leeds	4.30 am
Sun Sep 25 Watford v Notts Forest	4.30 am
DELAY	
Sun Sep 25 Cardiff v Leicester	10.00 pm

CARLING CUP Round 3 LIVE

Wed Sep 21 Leeds v Man Utd	4.30 am
Thu Sep 22 Brighton v Liverpool	4.30 am

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Uwe Kuessner

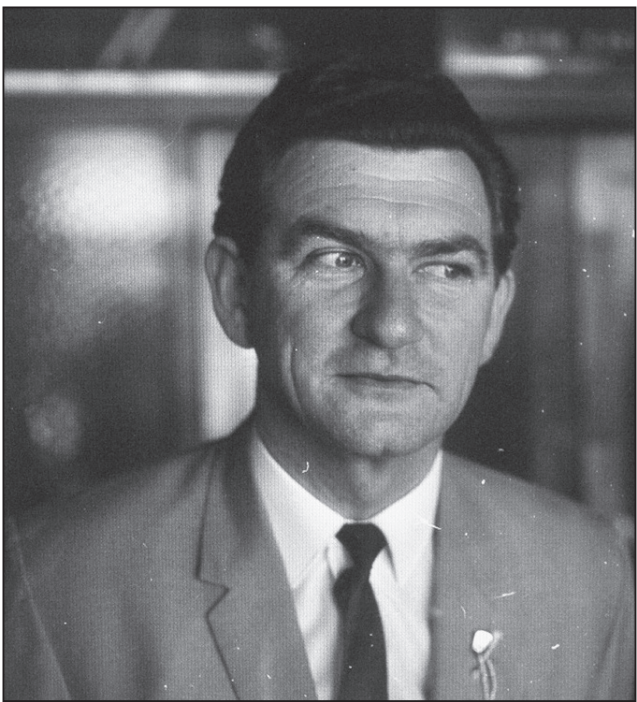
BLAST
FROM
THE PAST



With Roy Hay



Victorian captain coach, Vic Janczyk exchanges gifts and steely looks with Boris Batanov of Moscow Torpedo at Olympic Park in March 1965. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.



Bob Hawke elected President of the ACTU, Paddington Town Hall, Sydney, 10 September 1969. Photo: Uwe Kuessner, Australian Photographic Agency.



Mike Jurecki of Polonia was a mean dancer too. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.

Photographer Extraordinaire

Football in Victoria has been very lucky to have a number of brilliant photographers who have recorded its matches, players, officials and events over the years. One of the best is Uwe Kuessner whose action shots appeared in Soccer News and Soccer Weekly and other papers in the 1960s.

He was there for the big occasions. When Juventus and Hellas drew over 20,000 fans to their league match at Olympic Park in July 1962, Kuessner's front-page shot captured the action and the packed stadium in one great image. An individual shot of John Margaritis on the run with the ball at his feet also figured on that page.

In 1966 he recorded the huge crowd, estimated at over 36,000 who packed into Olympic Park and perched on the banking of the neighbouring Velodrome to watch Victoria play AS Roma and who spilled on to the pitch at the end of the game to chair off the Roma players. His action and team shots filled a double page spread in the centre of Soccer News and several other photographs were spread through that issue of the paper.

His pictures always told a story and while some captured close-quarter action, others evoked the almost balletic quality of football at times. He could show the stars in unfamiliar roles. Mike Jurecki of Polonia could appear as a tough action man for Victoria against Moscow Torpedo, but also on the dance floor. Lolly Vella, who could

play delicate football, was also a mudlark without losing control.

But he was not just a football photographer. In 1971 he and Mel Nichols caused a sensation in the motoring world when they borrowed one of the first Ford Falcon XY GT-HO Phase Three muscle cars and drove it up the Hume Highway at over 140 miles per hour (224 kmph) with the rev counter beyond the engine cut out at 6150 rpm. When Wheels magazine published the picture as Nichols played the Stig for Kuessner, who took the shot over his shoulder, the editor, fearing repercussions insisted that the speedo was at peak revs in third, not top gear. It was not till later that the true story came out. Allan Moffat won Bathurst that year in a Phase III. Some people believe that the photograph may have resulted in the campaign to inhibit Ford from building the successor to the Phase III.

Uwe Kuessner took many iconic political and cultural photographs in a career which stretched from the 1960s to his formal retirement in the first decade of this century. One of Bob Hawke just after his election as President of the ACTU in 1969 is very evocative of the man and his times.

Some of his work appears in the Australian Photographic Agency collection at the State Library of New South Wales and in the National Library in Canberra and there are many examples in the Laurie Schwab collection at Deakin University Library in Geelong.



Goalkeeper Putkowski punches clear of Alex Jagodic. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.

LIFE FROM BEHIND THE LENS...

By Uwe Kuessner

It was early in 1959 when I arrived in Australia as a ten pound migrant aboard the MS Aurelia.

The year was 1959 and I had just turned 22. I was a qualified commercial photographer and had little experience in photo journalism, a career I wanted to pursue. However with no English there was little prospect at the time so my first job, after processing in Bonegilla, landed me in Mildura for the grape picking season. I wanted to move to a big city so Melbourne became my next destination. Work was plentiful as long as you weren't fussy.

Odd jobs in factories for the next 18 months until one Sunday I went to a Soccer match at Olympic Park. There was nothing about football in the local papers, they of course were dominated by the VFL and VFA code. I picked up my first copy of Soccer News which, at that time could only afford to run one small picture on the front page. I went to see Fred Villiers the editor, who was also editor of the now defunct Sporting Globe which was part of the Herald & Weekly Times. Soccer News started to print the one and only picture of the week and it was mine.

About a year later Fred arranged for me to see the darkroom manager of the Herald & Weekly Times and, after a test, I landed a job in the darkroom. I continued with both jobs, Soccer News went to Offset printing which allowed them to use unlimited pictures and as I was now employed with the biggest newspaper chain in the country it was possible for me to submit Soccer related pictures to the "Sun".

Working in the darkroom made it possible to create my own picture portfolio. Some 18

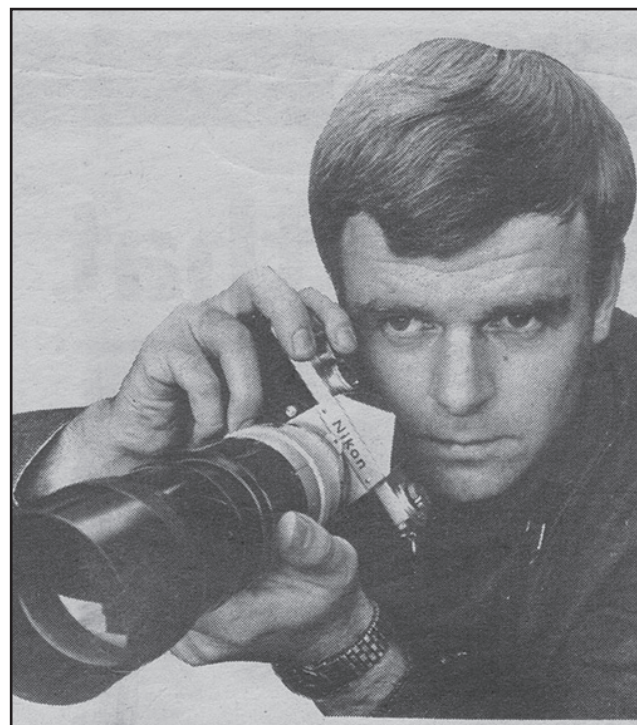
months later, I joined Southdown Press, publisher of TV Week, New Idea and the Truth. A few months later the "Australian" came to life. In the late 60th I went back to Germany where I worked for a newspaper chain in Hamburg. I returned to Australia and worked for the Melbourne "Age".

On a trip from Sydney to Melbourne I came across a serious truck accident. It was too late for the Melbourne papers so I offered it to the "Border Morning Mail" in Albury. A few months later the Editor from the "Mail" offered me the job as head photographer which I accepted. In Albury I met my wife. We moved back to Sydney where I freelanced for papers, agencies and magazines. After a few assignments for "Wheels" magazine I was asked to establish the photographic department for Murray Publishing. "Two Wheels" "Sports Car World" and "Man Magazine" are just some of the titles that belonged to the group.

However newspaper work was in my blood and I later went back to News Ltd in Sydney where I worked first for the "Telegraph" and later for the "Daily Mirror". Among the more unusual assignments was my job to shoot the page 3 girls for the "Mirror".

When the paper folded I went back to the "Telegraph". During this time I once more pursued sports photography working for "Tennis Magazine" here as well as covering for the German Tennis Magazine. A picture of Martina Navratilova earned me the "Sports Photographer" of the year in 1985. I remained with the "Telegraph" until I retired at the turn of the century.

Today we live at the South Coast, are both in good health. We both play tennis and I pursue my other hobbies which are cycling and fly fishing.



Uwe Kuessner. A rare shot of the man behind the lens. Source: Soccer News, 6 April 1967, p. 1.



The famous shot of the Falcon over the limit in revs on the Hume in 1971. There was no speed limit on the road at that time. Photo: Uwe Kuessner.



Front page of Soccer Weekly on 5 July 1962.



The crowd spill on to the pitch after Victoria versus AS Roma at Olympic Park on 29 May 1966. They were there to chair off their heroes. Photo: Uwe Kuessner. Source: Soccer News, 2 June 1966, p. 7.



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Adelaide Blue Eagles have won the 2011 Devine Super League Grand Final against Adelaide City 6-5 in a penalty shoot-out after the match ended goalless after 120 minutes.

Blue Eagles skipper Gino De Lucia saved two spot kicks to help his side to their first DevineSuper League title since 2003 and exact some revenge after losing 1-0 to City in the last year’s grand final.

Chances were few and far between in a tense first half with Nicky Orr going closest with a long range effort as both sides enjoyed trading blows without landing a knockout punch.

Ricardo Da Silva came close late in the second half with a sweet free kick from 25 metres that struck a Blue Eagles player on the way through, only for the deflection to crash against the cross bar.

From the resulting corner, Eli Vlassis was left unchecked in the box but his header from close range went just over the bar.

Blue Eagles second half substitute Chad Bugeja was proving a handful for the City defence and watched his shot fly narrowly over Luke Ostbye’s goal in the last minute of regular time.

Bugeja continued to torment the black and whites and nearly opened the scoring in the second period of extra time when he pounced on a poor back pass but was beaten by the on rushing Ostbye.

ABE could have finished the match in extra time with three more great chances in the second period.

Damien Di Mella stuck the upright

Blue Eagles hit the spot with SA title



Adelaide Blue Eagles are the toast of South Australia after defeating rivals Adelaide City on penalties to win the Super League. Inset: Enfield City take out top honours in the Premier League.Photos: ADAM BUTLER

after his cross took a wicked deflection, while Ian Kamau was next to go close for ABE with his shot from outside the box cleared off the line by Michael Shinnick.

Evan Kounavelis had the last chance of the match, using his speed to charge through on goal but Ostbye was equal to the task saving the shot with his legs as the contest ended goalless.

City skipper Nicky Budin stepped up to take the first penalty of the shootout but it was saved by De Lucia who guessed the right way.

Di Mella put ABE ahead with his

successful spot kick before Matt Mullen converted his.

Dean Kenrick had his penalty kept out by Ostbye before Jordan D’Arise, Da Silva and Jace Cummins all scored from the spot for City.

Ian Kamau, Kym Harris and Chris Atsikbasis converted for ABE to keep them in it before De Lucia saved Paul Pezos’ penalty.

Kounavelis stepped up and coolly slotted the winning penalty to see ABE crowned 2011 champions.

ENFIELD ROMPS TO PREMIER TITLE

Enfield City have taken out the 2011 Devine Premier League title with a 4-1 win over Adelaide Comets at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday.

With both Enfield and Comets already promoted in the Devine Super League for 2012, all goals came in a frantic second half after the sides went into the break goalless.

Nathan Fleetwood came on for Comets at the break to provide some inspiration and he did, opening the scoring with a well taken free kick

after just five minutes.

His shot curled over the wall from 25 yards and gave Enfield substitute keeper James Klappers no chance – Sam Lennon started the match in goal was but was subbed after just 10 minutes after injuring his collar bone.

Spiro Kezios equalised for Enfield five minutes later, turning in a cross from Angelo Arambatzis after some brilliant work on the left.

Arambatzis almost put Enfield in front with a spectacular overhead kick but it went just past the post.

FFSA Finals Results
Super, Premier and State League Grand Finals Saturday September 17 – Hindmarsh Stadium
DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 v Adelaide City 0 (HT 0-0) (FT 0-0) (AET 0-0) <i>*Adelaide Blue Eagles won 6-5 on penalties</i>
Best – Adelaide Blue Eagles: Damien Di Mella, Damian Crettenden, Evan Kounavelis; Adelaide City: Paul Pezos, Matthew Halliday, Luke Ostbye
Official Man of the Match: Damian Crettenden (Adelaide Blue Eagles)
DEVINE PREMIER LEAGUE Adelaide Comets 1 (Nathan Fleetwood) v Enfield City 4 (Spiro Kezios, Jim Stavrides, Angelo Arambatzis, Dimi Parhas) (HT 0-0)
Best – Adelaide Comets: Frankie Marafioti, David Zerillo, David Makridis; Enfield City: Angelo Arambatzis, Jim Stavrides, Spiro Kezios
Official Man of the Match: Angelo Arambatzis (Enfield City)
DEVINE STATE LEAGUE South Adelaide 0 v Salisbury United 3 (Russell Harris, Stephen Orange, Stephen Stam) (HT 0-3)
Best – South Adelaide: Robert Kelly, Robert Parker, Ben Smith; Salisbury United: Stephen Stam, Scott Lindsay, Russell Harris
Official Man of the Match: Stephen Stam (Salisbury United)

With 13 minutes remaining, the match was turned on its head when Enfield were awarded a penalty after Keegan Nash was judged to have been holding his opponent as a corner was whipped in.

Jim Stavrides coolly dispatched the spot kick to give Enfield the lead with 10 minutes remaining.

Two minutes later Arambatzis got his name on the score sheet with a well taken goal to all but seal victory for Enfield before captain Dimi Parhas iced the win in injury time.

Parhas took a touch before picking out the top corner from just inside the area for Enfield’s fourth.



Last year’s champions Blacktown City defied the odds and the critics to retain a chance of making it two on the spin by upending their hosts the Sutherland Sharks 2-1 on Saturday evening. The result eliminated Sutherland from the finals, while setting up a replay of the 2006 final between Blacktown and Sydney United.

In the major semi-final, played on Sunday afternoon, premiers Sydney Olympic assured themselves of a place in the grand final and a week’s rest by defeating Sydney United 2-0. Goals from Hning and Qhana provided sweet revenge for the Greek-backed club after their 4-2 home defeat to United just a month earlier.

Sutherland Sharks 1-2 Blacktown City
Seymour Shaw is always a very tough away venue, but Mark Crittenden’s young Blacktown City side showed enviable tenacity and determination in storming the Sutherland fortress in the do-or-die minor semi-final.

The hosts started with Panny Nikas in an unfamiliar lone striker role, and it may well have been a crucial tactical error on the part of Sutherland coach Robbie Stanton, as the aerial threat so typical of recent Sutherland sides was sadly lacking for most of the encounter.

Nevertheless, the home side made the most of the early running. Chris Price failed to make the most of a decent opportunity on seven minutes. On the quarter-hour mark an intricate Sutherland move saw young Todd Halloran released in the centre, but Blacktown keeper Symon Jaeger was swiftly off his line to avert the danger.

Powerful Blacktown striker Luke Roodenburg was making his presence

THREE LEFT IN NSW AS SHARKS BOW OUT



Sydney Olympic celebrate on the way to their 2-0 win over Sydney United. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/ COURTESY FNSW

felt as always, and a header on target on 20 minutes forced Nathan Denham into action. Lachlan Cahill, playing against his former club, then tested Jaeger with a crisp shot from outside the area, but the Blacktown custodian gathered cleanly.

With Cahill and Nikas combining superbly at times and the Sutherland rearguard dealing capably with Blacktown’s forays forward, few would have predicted the final result. Nikas had a chance on 40 minutes when he turned sharply on the edge of the box and let fly, but again Jaeger had positioned himself astutely. Only three minutes

later, against the run of play, Blacktown went ahead.

It was last year’s grand final hero Travis Major who provided the lead-up work, surging down the right in accustomed fashion before cutting the ball back crisply for Roodenburg, whose accurate side-footed shot beat Denham. A minute afterwards, a stunned Sutherland defence was caught out by a long ball to Roodenburg, and the latter’s lob took Denham out of the picture but was cleared off the line by young defender Hayden Morton.

Sutherland rallied after the break, and it was no surprise when they levelled

the scores in the 48th minute. Nikas’s powerful right boot pounded a shot at goal, and a slightly unsighted Jaeger was horrified to see the ball bounce off his near post and into the goal.

The match became tight and very tense. Mitchell Long had a chance to restore Blacktown’s lead soon after the equalizer, but failed to make the most of it; at the other end, Nikas had two good just before the hour, both spurned.

Blacktown retook the lead in spectacular fashion after fifteen minutes of the second half. Former Newcastle Jets striker Sean Rooney worked his way cleverly through the Sutherland defence

and got away an extraordinary overhead kick which flew by Denham to make the score 2-1.

Sutherland surged forward in the succeeding minutes, but the muscular and well-marshalled Blacktown defence was a match for the Sharks’ attackers. It was, in fact, Blacktown who nearly added to the score on 83 minutes when a neat ball from Roodenburg released Mitchell Duke, whose shot was saved superbly by Denham.

2-1 it remained, and the 2009 champions, for all their attacking verve and intent, were out. They can, however, be proud of their efforts in 2011.

NSW Results
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: MINOR SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 1 (Panagiotis Nikas 49m) Blacktown City 2 (Luke Roodenburg 43m Sean Rooney 60m). GRADE 20: Marconi Stallions 0 Blacktown City 2. GRADE 18: Manly United FC 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2.
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: MAJOR SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Sydney Olympic 2 (Richard Luksic 37m Emmanuel Giannaros 53m) Sydney United 0. GRADE 20: Sutherland Sharks 0 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2. GRADE 18: Sutherland Sharks 3 Sydney Olympic 4.
DIVISION ONE: GRAND FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Mounties Wanderers 3 (M Viera 73m S Goodwin 78m G Baldock 92m) Gladesville Ryde Magic 0. GRADE 20: Mounties Wanderers 1 Schofield Scorpions 0.
DIVISION TWO: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Hakoah FC 2 (M Kacen 9m D Gilmartin 20m) Northbridge FC 1 (E King 90m). RESERVE GRADE: Fairfield Wanderers 2 Northbridge FC 1.
SUPER LEAGUE: GRAND FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Blacktown Spartans 3 (T Macrae 55/72m G McPherson 77m) West Sydney Berries 0. GRADE 20: Sydney University 1 Spirit FC 0.
PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: MINOR SEMI FINALS: GRADE 13: Bankstown City 2 Sydney United 3. GRADE 14: Sydney Olympic 4 Parramatta Eagles 2. GRADE 15: Manly United FC 1 Marconi Stallions 2. GRADE 16: Sutherland Sharks 0 Blacktown City 1 Extra Time (0-0 F/T).
SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRAND FINALS: GRADE 13: Central Coast FC 1 Blacktown Spartans 3 Extra Time (1-1 F/T). GRADE 14: Mounties Wanderers 0 Central Coast FC 1. GRADE 15: Mounties Wanderers 5 Blacktown Spartans 7 Win on penalties (2-2 F/T 2-2 E/T).

Preliminary Final
Sydney Unted vs Blacktown City 3:00 PM Sun 25th Sep Venue TBA



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PHOTO: NICK GUOTH



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Perth SC grabs grand final berth



Peter Simcox

Perth Soccer Club has reached the Football West 2011 All Flags Top Five Grand Final after beating league winners Balcatta 2-1 in Sunday's Major Semi-Final at the 6PR Stadium.

Second half goals from Antonio Naglieri and David Onoforo put the Blues in complete control, and although Daniel Micevski's late goal closed the gap, it's Perth who move forward to the October 2nd Grand Final at Frank Drago Reserve.

The wind was howling at kick off and Perth had the advantage of it in the first half but it was Balcatta who began the better. The first chance fell to them on three minutes, Paul Vatisas played in Steven Burton, who shot from 12-yards was saved by Jason Saldaris.

That was the last action for the former Doncaster Rovers striker who limped off with a groin injury on 11 minutes; he was replaced by former Perth striker Veo Human.

Balcatta continued to dominate and Ashley Rosindale shot on the turn was saved by Jason Saldaris on 20 minutes, and moments later the Perth custodian denied John Migas.

Perth's first real chance didn't come until the 40th minute, Greg Sharland cutting in from the right, but his fierce shot whistled nar-

rowly wide.

It was Perth who was ending the half the better, and it was Sharland again two minutes later who was the supplier. His low cross from the right was only inches away from Dom De Felice at the back post.

But on the stroke of half time it was Balcatta who went close to the opener. A great run by Moe Atak ended with a powerful shot that Perth keeper Saldaris saved superbly low to his left. The danger wasn't over there, the rebound falling to Rosindale, whose shot was blocked by a timely tackle by Shaun Kilkelly.

The stalemate was final broken by Perth on 62 minutes. A short corner by Sharland caught Balcatta napping, and Naglieri's shot from the edge of the area beat everyone and nestled in the bottom right corner of the net.

It was nearly 2-0 five minutes later, Naglieri found Sharland in space, and the midfielder wasn't closed down and his shot from 18-yards was high, but on 70 minutes they did double their lead.

A perfectly weighted pass by young midfielder Josh Pereira sent Onoforo racing clear, the Perth skipper kept his composure and finished clinically past Lewis Italiano.

Balcatta continued to press and sent defender Tong sent forward in a bid to get back into the game, and he was in the thick of the action on 86 minutes. Micevski ball into the area was nodded back by Tong, but Rosindale's volley from eight-yards was straight at Saldaris.

Perth lost Naglieri late on through



WA Major Semi Final action between Balcatta and Perth SC. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

injury, and Balcatta reduced the deficit in stoppage-time, Micevski firing home after a one-two with Tong, but it was too little too late and it was Perth celebrating another Grand Final appearance.

Sorrento reached next week's Preliminary Final after a 3-1 extra time win against Inglewood United at the 6PR Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Adam Luca gave the Gulls the lead early, but Ndumba Makeche levelled midway through the second half and in extra time Luca added his second, and the game was

wrapped up by substitute Dejan to seal their passage to the Preliminary final.

The Gulls, who won the State League Cup, last month, opened the scoring on 28 minutes. Joe Allanson played the ball back to Luca who fired past Oliver Taseski, via a deflection from the edge of the area.

It was nearly 2-0 three minutes later, former Jason Mirco's headed was well saved by Taseski, but they went into the break one to the good.

Inglewood came out better after

the break and 10 minutes in they were level. James Sammut's pass was flicked by Rory Grant into the path of Makeche, who expertly swept the ball low across the Curtis Aspden and inside the upright.

Both sides had chance in the second half but none were converted so it was into extra time. In the opening minute Makeche got free of Jared Love only to blaze high from a tight angle. That miss was punished in the 98th minute when Luca's shot from the top of the box deflected off Ross Harvey and flashed into the

back of the net.

Four minutes later substitute Dejan Gurovski trapped the ball wide on the left and exquisitely curled over Taseski from 22-metres to seal victory for Sorrento. Inglewood did all they could to keep their season alive but there was no way Sorrento were about to let them back in.

The Gulls go forward to take on Balcatta next Saturday at the 6PR Stadium, for the right to meet Perth SC in the Grand Final.

WA Results - Final Series

ALL FLAGS STATE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Sunday, 18 September 2011
Major Semi Final
Balcatta SC 1 (Micevski 93) Perth SC 2 (Naglieri 64, Onoforo 70)

Saturday, 17 September 2011
Minor Semi Final
Inglewood United 1 (Makeche 55) Sorrento 3 (Luca 28, 98, Gurovski 104).

Finals Series

Preliminary Final
Sorrento SC
v
Balcatta
6PR Stadium
Saturday 24th September
KO TBC

CANBERRA FC WIN GRAND FINAL IN THIRTEEN GOAL THRILLER



Russ Gibbs

Simply unbelievable. At the end of ninety pulsating minutes of football Canberra FC emerged as the 2011 ROCK Premier League Grand Final winners with a quite sensational 8-5 victory over Canberra Olympic at Deakin Stadium. This was the game that had everything, thirteen goals, a missed penalty and a sending off adding up to a match that will go down in the annals of local football history as one of the most epic matches ever seen. And, whilst the defending at times seemed optional, few present will ever forget this one.

It was the game that signalled the end of the career of Canberra FC stalwart John Glass, heading into retirement with a fairytale finish scoring a thumping header and leaving the field to a standing ovation when replaced by Michael Spaleta late on, and also showcased the talents of Robbie Deeley. Olympic's New Zealand import demonstrated that he can be as pivotal to his team as Adam Spaleta is to Canberra FC, claiming a hat-trick in an effervescent performance that was only blotted by a horrendous penalty miss.

The match, as a contest, appeared to be over even before it had started when Canberra FC raced into a scarcely probable 3-0 lead after only eighteen minutes. Having lost to Olympic in the major semi-final a fortnight ago the home team were in no mood to succumb again and wasted little time in laying down a marker for the game ahead taking the lead as early as the fifth minute. The goal though owed much to ill fortune for Dean Ugrinic and his team with goalkeeper James Bradbury shanking a clearance into Joel Valtonen and



Matt Grbesa (Canberra FC) fends off Robbie Deeley. Photo: NICK GUOTH

watching as it broke to Paul Ivanic who gleefully turned in the first of his Grand Final treble.

Five minutes later and the home support was up and dancing again. Ian Graham, striding through midfield like a colossus, turned Nick Sallechia inside-out on the right flank and centred for Ivanic to lay off into the path of Stephen Lee who curled a delicious left foot shot past the outstretched hand of Bradbury and into the corner of the net.

Two became three in the eighteenth minute as Graham fed Ivan Pavlak allowing the rapid left winger space to run at the inexperienced Hristjan Tanoski, Pavlak cut outside and in before firing a low shot that eluded Bradbury at his near post and flashed into the net. Olympic were on their knees and needed a quick response. They got it on 26 minutes when Deeley showed just why he is the king of the set-piece with a wonderful free-kick from twenty-five metres that

took a slight deflection off the Canberra FC wall on its way past Ben Klug in the goal.

By now Olympic were in the ascendancy and Jakob Williams went close from a free-kick, forcing Klug to tip the ball over the bar. From the resultant corner Robbie Schroder headed over when well-placed. This spell only furthered Canberra FC's desire though and they went 4-1 up in the 38th minute. Ivanic used is strength to win the ball and play it back to Pavlak and from the lofted cross Lee, the smallest man on the field, leapt highest to send a header looping over Bradbury for a quite brilliant goal.

Two minutes later it was 5-1. Adam Spaleta sent a half-volleyed cross over the Olympic defence where Schroder missed his clearance allowing Ivanic the easiest of tasks to prod a shot past Bradbury from ten metres. And still the goals kept coming. Canberra FC failed to clear their lines and the ball fell to Deeley who sent a snap



Man of the Match Stephen Lee celebrates his second goal of the gam. Photo: NICK GUOTH

shot straight back that beat Klug and crashed into the net off the base of the 'keeper's right hand post as Olympic went into the break down 5-2.

Any hope of an unlikely comeback was stifled five minutes after the restart when Canberra FC racked up the half dozen. Ivanic appeared to be fouled but referee Richard Naumovski played a superb advantage and Spaleta raced clear to slot home a well-taken goal. To their credit Olympic refused to give in and reduced the gap to 6-3 in the 58th minute. Substitute Travis Dries pounced on a mistake from Ryan Keir and fed Daniel Barac with the striker initially forcing a smart save from Klug before turning the rebound into the net from an acute angle.

Stung again, Canberra FC swarmed onto the offensive once more and from an inch-perfect Spaleta cross, Glass had his moment rising high to plant a thumping header into the corner of the goal with Bradbury,

once again, left stranded. At 7-3 with fifteen minutes to play the players could have been forgiven for taking it easy. No such luck. Olympic were awarded a penalty when Oliver Wiederkehr sent a cross into the area that was handled by Aidan Brunskill only for Deeley to blaze the resultant kick miles over the bar. No matter. Within a dozen minutes he made amends. Exchanging passes with substitutes Elia Salloum and Dries, Deeley then arrowed in a drive into the roof of the net to complete his hat-trick.

The last word it appeared would go to Canberra FC. The league champions broke again with Adam Spaleta racing clear and rounding Bradbury. His first touch was too heavy which allowed the young Olympic custodian to recover only for Spaleta to beat him again and then rifle a close range shot at goal that was handled by Schroder on the line. Naumovski had little option but to dismiss Schroder and Ivanic brought up his treble

ACT Finals Series

Saturday 17th September 2011
Rock Premier League
Grand Final
Deakin Stadium, kick off 17.30 **Canberra FC 8** (Paul Ivanic 5', 40', 87' (pen), Stephen Lee 10', 38', Ivan Pavlak 19', Adam Spaleta 51', John Glass 62') **Canberra Olympic 5** (Robbie Deeley 27', 43', 78', Daniel Barac 59' 90+3')
Half-time: 5-2

Canberra FC: 18. Ben Klug (gk), 5. John Glass (9. Michael Spaleta), 6. Ryan Keir (4. Izach Clements), 7. Paul Ivanic, 10. Stephen Lee (13. Daniel Bennett), 11. Ivan Pavlak, 12. Ian Graham, 16. Matt Grbesa, 19. Adam Spaleta, 23. Marcin Zygmunt, 76. Aidan Brunskill

Substitutes not used: 3. Aaron Evans, David Wilden-Constantin (gk)

Canberra Olympic: 1 James Bradbury (gk), 2. Hristjan Tanoski, 3. Joel Valtonen, 6. Jon Stone (19. Milan Popovich), 7. Robbie Deeley, 8. Nicholas Sallecchia, 9. Oliver Wiederkehr (17. Elia Salloum), 10. James Field (5. Travis Dries), 11. Jakob Williams, 12. Daniel Barac, 13 Robbie Schroder

Substitutes not used: 14. Matt Cachia, 20. Angelo Konstantinou (gk)

YELLOW CARDS: 7. Robbie Deeley, 8. Nicholas Sallecchia (both Canberra Olympic)
RED CARD: 13 Robbie Schroder (Canberra Olympic)

Match Officials: Richard Naumovski (referee), Ben Wilson, Brett Woodford

from the spot to make the score 8-4. However, Olympic were to have the final say, even in defeat. As stoppage time ticked over Barac rose high to send a header past Klug and bring the curtain down on a sensational evening's entertainment of which we're unlikely to ever see it's like again. Breathtaking stuff and some way to round out the 2011 ROCK Premier League season.

State NW 2

Champions: Werribee City
Play off: Whittlesea Ranges

Relegated: Geelong, Williamstown

State SE 2

Champions: Dandenong City
Play off: Box Hill United

Relegated: Heatherton United, Knox City

State NW 3

Champions: Keilor Park

Promoted:La Trobe University

Relegated:Maribymngnong Greens, Geelong Rangers

State SE 3

Champions: Kingston City

Promoted: Mornington

Relegated: Croydon City Arrows, Frankston Pines

Provi NW 1

Champions: North Sunshine Eagles

Promoted: Sporting Whittlesea

Relegated: Western Eagles, Laverton Park

Provi SE 1

Champions: Springvale City

Promoted: Beaumaris

Relegated: Skye United, Lyndale United

Provi NW 2

Champions: Moreland United

Promoted: Lalor United

Relegated: Melbourne City, Melbourne Tornado

Provi SE 2

Champions: Monbulk

Promoted: Riversdale

Relegated:Boroondara Eagles

Provi NW 3

Champions: Brunswick Zebras

Promoted: Essendon Royals

Provi SE 3

Champions: Middle Park

Promoted:Collingwood City

PLAY OFF DETAILS

Whittlesea Ranges

vs. Box Hill United

Sat Sept 24th KO 2.00PM

Mclvor Reserve

Fogarty Avenue,

Spotswood

MEL (41 G10)

Congratulations to

all the winners and

grinners of

Season 2011.

We hope you enjoyed it

as much as we did.

Pain is temporary, glory

is for ever!

Whether you enjoy the

spoils of your victories

over summer or

contemplate the woulda,

shoulda, couldas - we

look forward to more

bish, bash, bosh in 2012.



Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 (R Mustafovski N Lazarevski)
Moreland City 1 (K Simsek), Altona East Phoenix 4 FC
Clifton Hill 1, Ballarat Red Devils 5 Altona City 3, Banyule
City 2 Williamstown 0, Brunswick City 1 Westgate 0,
Geelong 0 Werribee City 2

Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 Moreland City 0, Altona East
Phoenix 4 FC Clifton Hill 2, Ballarat Red Devils 1 Altona
City 1, Banyule City 2 Williamstown 2, Brunswick
City 3 Westgate 0, Geelong 4 Werribee City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Werribee City	22	16	5	1	41	17	50	
Whittlesea Ranges FC	22	14	5	3	35	16	47	
Brunswick City	22	14	3	5	53	25	42	
Moreland City	22	12	2	8	59	34	38	
Ballarat Red Devils	22	11	3	8	41	34	36	
Altona East Phoenix	22	8	2	12	31	36	26	
Banyule City	22	6	6	10	24	38	24	
FC Clifton Hill	22	7	5	10	27	36	23	
Westgate	22	7	3	12	31	39	21	
Altona City	22	6	3	13	27	39	21	
Geelong	22	6	2	14	25	53	17	
Williamstown	22	4	3	15	18	45	12	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Moreland City	22	17	1	4	63	22	52	
Brunswick City	22	13	3	6	50	29	42	
Whittlesea Ranges FC	22	12	4	6	55	33	40	
Werribee City	22	11	6	5	44	32	39	
Williamstown	22	9	5	8	27	31	32	
Banyule City	22	9	4	9	34	37	31	
Ballarat Red Devils	22	8	7	7	35	26	30	
Altona East Phoenix	22	9	2	11	35	41	29	
FC Clifton Hill	22	7	4	11	34	54	25	
Geelong	22	6	2	14	24	55	20	
Altona City	22	3	5	14	27	53	14	
Westgate	22	4	5	13	18	33	13	

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Cairnlea 1 Sydenham Park 8, Hume Utd 6 Geelong
Rangers 2, Keilor Park 6 (B Malaga 2 RR Damianou L
Carbone 3) La Trobe University 1, Sunbury Utd 3 Yar-
raville Glory 0, Whittlesea Utd 1 Avondale Heights 1,
Melbourne University 6 Maribymngnong Greens 0

Cairnlea 6 Sydenham Park 3, Hume Utd 2 Geelong
Rangers 14, Keilor Park 2 (J Bruzzichessi 2) La Trobe
University 2, Sunbury Utd 11 Yarraville Glory 0, Whit-
tlesea Utd 0 Avondale Heights 0, Melbourne Univer-
sity 11 Maribymngnong Greens 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Keilor Park	22	14	7	1	56	16	49	
La Trobe University	22	12	3	7	33	32	39	
Melbourne University	22	10	6	6	36	20	36	
Sunbury Utd	22	10	4	8	39	28	34	
Yarraville Glory	22	9	7	6	38	31	34	
Sydenham Park	22	9	6	7	46	34	33	
Avondale Heights	22	9	5	8	34	31	32	
Whittlesea Utd	22	8	6	8	38	41	32	
Hume Utd	22	8	5	9	34	32	29	
Cairnlea	22	7	3	12	45	52	24	
Maribymngnong Greens	22	4	2	16	41	71	14	
Geelong Rangers	22	2	4	16	29	81	10	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Sunbury Utd	22	17	4	1	80	17	55	
Whittlesea Utd	22	16	4	2	89	17	52	
Keilor Park	22	15	5	2100	27	50		
La Trobe University	22	12	6	4	71	36	42	
Melbourne University	22	9	3	10	51	44	30	
Sydenham Park	22	9	3	10	50	59	30	
Cairnlea	22	8	3	11	57	74	27	
Avondale Heights	22	6	4	12	34	43	22	
Yarraville Glory	22	6	3	13	38	81	21	
Geelong Rangers	22	6	1	15	43	66	19	
Hume Utd	22	4	3	15	40127	15		
Maribymngnong Greens	22	3	3	16	44106	12		

Seniors

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Laverton Park 1 Corio 5, Northern Falcons 2 FC Strath-
more 6, South Yarra 0 Sporting Whittlesea FC 1, West-
ern Eagles 0 North Sunshine Eagles 5, Essendon Utd 2
Westvale 0, Surf Coast 4 North City Lions 1

Laverton Park 1 Corio 2, Northern Falcons 2 FC
Strathmore 1, South Yarra 0 Sporting Whittlesea FC 0,
Western Eagles 2 North Sunshine Eagles 4, Essend-
on Utd 2 Westvale 3, Surf Coast 0 North City Lions 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
North Sunshine Eagles	22	15	4	3	58	28	49	
Sporting Whittlesea FC	22	16	1	5	42	21	49	
Corio	22	12	3	7	56	33	39	
South Yarra	22	12	3	7	51	33	39	
Westvale	22	7	10	5	31	25	31	
Essendon Utd	22	9	2	11	40	42	29	
FC Strathmore	22	7	5	10	42	45	26	
North City Lions	22	7	5	10	31	42	26	
Surf Coast	22	7	4	11	33	44	25	
Northern Falcons	22	7	1	14	18	55	22	
Western Eagles	22	6	3	13	32	39	21	
Laverton Park	22	3	7	12	29	56	16	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
South Yarra	22	18	2	2	71	16	56	
North Sunshine Eagles	22	14	3	5	64	42	45	
Surf Coast	22	14	3	5	46	28	45	
Sporting Whittlesea FC	22	12	4	6	62	39	40	
North City Lions	22	12	3	7	67	42	39	
Corio	22	10	4	8	47	35	34	
Westvale	22	9	4	9	38	41	31	
Laverton Park	22	8	2	12	44	64	26	
Northern Falcons	22	5	4	13	33	87	19	
FC Strathmore	22	5	3	14	42	57	18	
Western Eagles	22	3	6	13	32	61	15	
Essendon Utd	22	2	2	18	31	65	8	

Seniors

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Bell Park 1 West Preston 1, Elwood City 2 Epping City
1, Hoppers Crossing 5 (A Smart 3 C Cullen) Melbourne
Tornado 3 (R Blazevic A Mihoc), Lalor Utd 3 Northern
Roosters 0, Plenty Valley Lions 4 (K Smirnits 2 J Marsh
J Jimenez-Villena) Melbourne City 3, Upfield 3 Moreland
Utd 2 (A Babo SH Mansour)

Bell Park 1 West Preston 2, Elwood City 2 Epping City
1, Hoppers Crossing 1 Melbourne Tornado 0, Lalor
Utd 7 Northern Roosters 2, Plenty Valley Lions 2 Mel-
bourne City 5, Upfield 2 Moreland Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Moreland Utd	22	12	5	5	47	25	41	
Lalor Utd	22	12	4	6	40	29	40	
West Preston	22	11	6	5	48	36	39	
Hoppers Crossing	22	12	3	7	48	36	39	
Plenty Valley Lions	22	11	4	7	33	34	37	
Upfield	22	12	3	7	43	29	36	
Epping City	22	11	3	8	48	39	36	
Elwood City	22	8	3	11	46	43	27	
Bell Park	22	6	4	12	34	36	22	
Northern Roosters	22	3	10	9	29	38	19	
Melbourne City	22	4	4	14	32	70	16	
Melbourne Tornado	22	4	3	15	25	58	15	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Upfield	22	19	2	1	67	20	59	
Elwood City	22	17	2	3	75	29	53	
Hoppers Crossing	22	15	1	6	61	22	46	
Lalor Utd	22	13	2	7	44	31	41	
Epping City	22	13	1	8	56	38	40	
Melbourne Tornado	22	8	3	11	46	47	27	
Moreland Utd	22	8	2	12	29	45	26	
Bell Park	22	6	7	9	27	33	25	
West Preston	22	6	4	12	44	61	22	
Northern Roosters	22	5	2	15	51	90	17	
Plenty Valley Lions	22	4	3	15	34	62	15	
Melbourne City	22	3	1	18	23	79	10	

Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Balmoral FC 2 (H Ikanovic N Ibisevic) Moreland Wolves
7, Brimbank Stallions 2 Darebin Utd 3, Essendon Roy-
als 3 (TA Rowan S Mungherli M Collina) Brunswick Ze-
bras 0, Heidelberg Stars 1 Watsonia Heights 3, Meadow
Park Eagles 3 (P Marazita C Coustenis A Minutoli)
Youth Utd 1, Melton Phoenix FC 1 Mill Park 0

Balmoral FC 2 (M Hot A Ibrahim) Moreland Wolves 4,
Brimbank Stallions 1 Darebin Utd 0, Essendon Roy-
als 1 (K Bitsonis) Brunswick Zebras 1, Heidelberg
Stars 1 Watsonia Heights 3, Meadow Park Eagles 2
Youth Utd 2, Melton Phoenix FC 2 Mill Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Brunswick Zebras	22	17	1	4	78	29	52	
Essendon Royals	22	15	3	4	74	38	48	
Moreland Wolves	22	14	4	4	61	35	46	
Heidelberg Stars	22	12	4	6	56	34	40	
Brimbank Stallions	22	9	6	7	56	40	33	
Meadow Park Eagles	22	10	3	9	36	40	33	
Darebin Utd	22	9	5	8	35	42	32	
Watsonia Heights	22	9	4	9	46	35	31	
Balmoral FC	22	4	5	13	45	66	17	
Melton Phoenix FC	22	4	5	13	21	47	17	
Mill Park	22	4	2	16	22	74	14	
Youth Utd	22	3	2	17	26	76	8	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Watsonia Heights	22	18	3	1	82	20	57
Brimbank Stallions	22	14	4	4	44	24	46
Heidelberg Stars	22	13	3	6	83	36	42
Melton Phoenix FC	22	13	2	7	38	30	41
Moreland Wolves	22	12	3	7	61	38	39
Brunswick Zebras	22	11	4	7	60	28	37
Essendon Royals	22	9	2	11	42	39	26
Darebin Utd	22	6	3	13	27	51	22
Youth Utd	22	6	2	14	47	77	22
Balmoral FC	22	4	5	13	34	53	11
Mill Park	22	5	0	17	18	78	11
Meadow Park Eagles	22	4	3	15	14	76	11

Promotions and relegations decided as season ends

By Michal Skrodsky

Well what a crazy weekend it was with many teams celebrating, and others crying. Let's not waste time and get right into the action!

State 2 NW:
Promotion: Werribee City clinched the title and a spot in State 1 with a 2-0 win on the road at Geelong. Whittlesea Ranges got over Moreland City 2-1 but needed Werribee to lose to have any chance of winning the title. Whittlesea has finished 2nd and still has a chance of State 1 football with a spot in the play-offs.

Relegation: Westgate ensured their State 2 status last Monday with a huge 4-1 win over Ballarat. This result meant Geelong and Willamstown were relegated coming into the last round.

State 2 SE:
Promotion: Dandenong City put the icing on the cake this week with a 2-1 win over South Springvale, this result at little impact as Dandy City had already secured promotion the championship. All eyes were at Wembley Park where Box Hill United hosted Malvern City in the battle for 2nd spot and a chance at promotion in the play-offs. Box Hill at home, needed a win while for Malvern a draw would have been enough. It was the home team who took the points in a hard-fought 1-0 win in front of a big crowd. This means Box Hill United will now face Whittlesea Ranges in the first stage of the play-offs. With the winner of this match will face 3rd from bottom in State 1, Langwarrin, for a spot in State 1.

Relegation: Despite being already relegated, both Heatheron United and Knox City had wins on the last day of the season. Knox City got up 1-0 at Casey Comets while Heatheron United won likewise on the road 2-1 at Noble Park United, in what would have been a heated affair.

State 3 NW:
Promotion: Champions Keilor Park showed their dominance in this league with a thumping 6-1 win over 2nd placed La Trobe University. The result meant nothing in terms of ladder position as both teams had already settled their final ladder position, but this result really showed the gap between Keilor and the chasing pack as Keilor lead this league for most the season. A ticket-tape parade will be held on Keilor Park Drive this Monday to honour the Purple Eagles.

Relegation: Both Geelong Rangers and Maribymong Greens were relegated



United We Stand: Old Carey senior, reserves and women's squads come together.
Photo: PETER PSARROS

ed coming into this week, and unlike their counterparts in State 2 SE, they couldn't get a consolation win. In fact, they both had 6 goals slammed past them. Geelong Rangers went down 6-2 at Hume United and Maribymong Greens lost 6-0 at Melbourne University.

State 3 SE:
Promotion: Kingston City had a huge 6-0 win over Berwick City last Monday meaning Kingston and Mornington were on equal points heading into the last round. Kingston's match was against North Caulfield meaning this game would be played on Sunday. Mornington took top spot on Saturday with a 3-1 win over Peninsula Strikers meaning only a win would do for Kingston. The former VPL did the job and defeated North Caulfield 2-0 and the boys from the The Grange went wild!

Relegation: With Frankston Pines already being relegation, all eyes were on the scarp between Berwick City and Croydon City. Berwick sat 1 point clear of Croydon leading into the last day and Berwick ensured survival with a 3-1 win over Waverley Wanderers while Croydon City failed at home, going down 1-4 to Nunawading.

Provisional 1 NW:
Promotion: North Sunshine Eagles and Sporting Whittlesea came into the last round locked on equal points with the promotion already secured. North Sunshine sat on top only by a goal difference of 4 over Sporting. Sporting got over South Yarra 1-0, meaning any win would do for North Sunshine. North Sunshine won in a 5-0 thrashing of Western Eagles, North Sunshine kept the pedal on the gas the whole match knowing goal difference would count

at the end of the day. North Sunshine Champions of Provisional 1 NW for 2011.

Relegation: The North Sunshine - Western Eagles result meant the other teams in the relegation battle could breathe a sigh of relief as this meant the Wetsern Eagles were relegated. If the Western Eagles could have managed a draw then Northern Falcons, who lost 2-6 to Strathmore this week, would have been relegated. Laverton Park were also relegated.

Provisional 1 SE:
Promotion: In this league both the top 2 and bottom 2 positions already cemented, hence the last day was a fun day for all concerned. Springvale celebrated their Championship in emphatic fashion with a 4-0 thrashing of Monash University. Meanwhile, 2nd placed Beaumaris had thrilling 3-2 win over the team with the longest name in Victorian football, Hampton Park United Sparrows.

Relegation: Our two relegated teams in this league had some mixed results. Lyndale United put up a fight in a 1-1 draw against the Armenian heroes of Brandon Park. While Skye United had a shameful 2-5 loss at home to Sandringham.

Provisional 2 NW:
Promotion: Moreland United celebrated the Championship officially this week despite a 2-3 loss at Upfield. West Preston were in the box seat for promotion but slipped up at Bell Park with a 1-1 draw. This opened up the door for 3rd placed Lalor United, who took the invitation and jumped West Preston for that all important 2nd spot

with a 3-0 win over Northern Roosters.

Relegation: With Northern Roosters going down 0-3 to Lalor United, Melbourne City could avoid relegation with a 27 goal win at Plenty Valley Lions, it was not to be with Plenty Valley getting over Melbourne City 4-3 in an exciting match. Melbourne Tornado were already relegated coming into this round.

Provisional 2 SE:
Promotion: Had Monbulk and Riversdale scrapping for the title after both gained promotion alst week. A draw would be enough for Monbulk and they did more than draw, they won and won in style 2-0 over Ashburton United. This meant Riversdale 1-0 win at University of Melbourne had no bearing on the final ladder position.

Relegation: Casey Kings came into this round on 20 points, with Uni of Melbourne and Boroondara on 19. This relegation battle was a bit of an anti-climax with both Uni of Melbourne and Boroondara going down and Casey Kings winning. Casey got over Endeavour United 2-1, Uni lost 0-1 to Riversdale and Boroondara lost 2-3 at Bayside Argonauts.

Provisional 3 NW:
Promotion: Brunswick Zebras were already promoted coming into this round with all to play for between Essendon Royals on 45 points and Moreland Wolves on 43 points. The Wolves smashed Balmoral 7-2 but the Essendon Royals were lucky they took on the Championship-hung over Brunswick Zebras whom the Royals were able to defeat 3-0 and join them in Provisional 2 NW for 2012.



The Old Carey women's team put up an acrobatic defensive wall to combat the free kick. Photo: PETER PSARROS

Relegation: Wooden-spooners Youth United had a 1-3 loss at Meadow Park Eagles and 2nd last Mill Park put up a decent show in a 1-1 draw with Melton. Mill Park and Youth United might be relegated if a suitable replacement is found from the Metro Leagues.

Provisional 3 SE:
Promotion: Well this week in Provi 3 SE it was all about the clash of the titans, Collingwood City vs Middle Park. These two teams have dominted this league from start to finish and they faced off on the last day for the title. Middle Park lead Collingwood by 1 point but Collingwood had the home ground advantage. The match was tight, with every ball being hotly contested, and it was no surprise only 1 goal seperated the two teams and that goal came in the 2nd half for Middle Park who celebrated like wild dogs in the dark after the match.

Relegation: Last placed East Bentleigh had their 2nd win of the season with a 1-0 win at Baxter. Second last Eltham Redbacks could not pull off

some final day heroics going down 1-7 to Brighton.

Well that's it ! Another season behind us. If you really want to make the most of the season then get down to the State 1 Play-Offs, next week at McIvor Reserve Whittlesea Ranges take on Box Hill United and the week after the winner of this match takes on Langwarrin. I'd like to congratulate all teams who won promotion and comiserate the teams who were relegated, and as they say: There is always next year! Thanks goes to Paul Mavroudis for filling in for me when I could not do this column on the odd week and most of all a huge thanks to all who have read this report and I hope you have enjoyed it! Have a safe and happy off-season. I look forward to bringing you next year's lower league action.

One last time for this year:

CCCCRRRRRRUUUUU-
UNNNNNNCCCCCH-
HHHHAAAAAALLL-
LOOOOOORRRRR!!!!!!!



A Caulfield Cobra player lashes out in an incident that went unpunished. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Old carey captain scores from the spot to lead 2-1. Photo: PETER PSARROS

WHITTLESEAZEBRASFC

VIC STATE LEAGUE ONE CHAMPIONS 2011



BACK ROW: Sam Defina, Vince LoSchiavo, Joe Sala, James Papadimitriou, Vincent Faherty, Raymond Lally, Tom Galea, Tex Apostolikas, Arthur Tsonis(V/cap), Sayeed Hossaini Ersin Kaya Dejan Radojicic Matthew Iuliano Maurice Ballassonne Domenic Barba (Sen Coach) Neno Marianni

MIDDLE ROW: Lachlan Small, Stuart McCluskey (Captain), Robert Santilli, Abdul Abul, Stuart Nicholson Michael Mazzarella Ralph Napoli Christian Bonello

FRONT ROW: Jordan Wilkes, Matthew Napoli, Simon Symeoy, Brandon Defina, Adil Sulliman



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Zebras snatch title as Port stumbles



Mem Suleyman
 Whittlesea crowned SL1 champions in Italian derby

2004 was the last time Whittlesea were crowned champions in any competition but there was no way they would have tasted a championship by goal difference on the final day. Their goal difference was three better than second place Southern Stars and eight better than third placed Port Melbourne.

The already relegated Fawkner got on the score sheet early breading young faces to their line up against their fierce rivals. That goal was cancelled out by a Stuart Nicholson penalty following an awful tackle on Vincent Faherty which seen him substituted for Sayeed Hossaini.

Ironically it was the substitute Hos-sanini who put Whittlesea in front just before halftime, no doubt another twist to this already dramatic season 2-1 for the Zebras at halftime.

Whittlesea continued piling on pressure in the second half and on the 70th minute it was Stuart Nicolson who secured the championship, fine season for Nicholson who signed for the Zebras mid season.

After the game Whittlesea Zebras Media Manager Frank Carbone spoke of the clubs delight on securing the championship “The club feels like they are back were they belong after a few seasons of indifference. A lot of congratulations need to go to coach Dominic Barba and his support staff plus all administration staff and volunteers at the club. We now look forward to playing the likes of South Melbourne, Heidelberg and Green Gully in the VPL who traditionally have been our rivals.”

The 64-year-old club will be celebrating their championship this Friday at their presentation night that will also be seeing off steward vice-captain Arthur Tsonis.

Greechan hands Stars last second promotion over battling Langwarrin
 A last second goal to Southern Stars forward Chris Greechan was enough to secure promotion for the Dandenong based Turkish side. Wild scenes erupted at Lewton Park as the Stars were promoted for the second season in a row after last seasons undefeated championship victory.

A draw would have been enough for Langwarrin’s survival but it wasn’t to be, as Southern Stars striker Chris Greechan would again prove his worth spoiling the party for both Langwarrin and Port Melbourne with his last second brace.

Langwarrin took a early first half led thanks to goals to SL1 Golden Boot Winner Caleb Nicholas and Simon Muir but the battling Turks were quick to answer as goals to Chris Greechan, Joe Di Iorio and Mark Leech was enough to take Stars into the halftime break 3-2 up.

The second half started with a 15 minute delay from the referee but it was the 92th minute that mattered as 18 year old Langwarrin midfielder Alex Van Heerwaarden equalized for the home side to all but secure their survival in SL1.

In a historic turn of events Stars responded three minutes later as Langwarrin keeper Michael Sivulja stumbled a catch, which fell to the feet of Chris Greechan who slotted home his 12th goal of the season, faith? you beat ya. Stars ran out 4-3 winners with the last kick of the game and secured promotion by just five goals.

Langwarrin now play off against the winner of Box Hill and Whittlesea Rangers in two weeks time no doubt going into the game hot favorites to survive relegation after a battling end



It's high fives for Pascoe Vale, heads down for Port as Paco takes a 2-0 lead. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



When You’re leading the top team 2-0 with minutes to go anything seems possible as Luca Santilli (Pascoe Vale) demonstrates to Haris Vrbavoc (Pt Melb) PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

to their season.

Stars will now look to tinker with their side; they have already secured sponsorship for next season becoming the third team in the world after Manchester United and Barcelona to secure major sponsorship from Turkish Airways. They will also become only the third Turkish side in history after Albion Rovers (Cairnlea FC) and Hume City to play in the VPL.

Team Manager Tony Yildar spoke of his delight after the game “just want to thank our major sponsors Altinbas Jewelers who have been great support this year. Also to our fans and supporters who have been very loyal again. It’s been one hell of a season, to cop a goal in the 92th minute and to score in the 95th is just unbelievable”.

Pascoe Vale shock unlucky Port
 A win would have secured promotion to the Victorian Premier

League for Port Melbourne but the nerves clearly kicked in as Pascoe Vale ran out easy winners away from home at SS Anderson Reserve.

Port Melbourne went 12 games unbeaten in the first 12 rounds of the season but dropping points to North Geelong, Western Suburbs, Fawkner, Langwarrin and Whittlesea would prove to be the stumbling block for the Sharks come seasons end.

Pascoe Vale demonstrated they traveled to SS Anderson Reserve to win as a first half goal to Marco Santilli and a second half penalty to Zlate Matiovski was enough to secure fourth spot, 11 points away from the promoted Southern Stars.

Fans earlier witnessed Pascoe Vale’s under 21 side finish runners-up under the guidance of first year coach David Lugli, a great way to finish off the season for the only team left representing the City of

Moreland next year.

As for Port Melbourne huge disappointment as goal difference proved the difference at the end but obviously not the end of the world, a few transfers and patch ups in the middle of park could see the team fighting for promotion next season.

Muscat sent out in style
 Consul General of Malta Sir Charles Mifsud presented Kevin Muscat with a souvenir gift on behalf of the Maltese Government in recognition of Muscat’s career in football and at the same time farewelled Preston Lions from SL1, a fall from grace for the one time VPL power club who only managed 4 wins from 22 starts this season.

Sunshine George Cross made hard work of beating Preston Lions despite the 5-1 score line suggesting an easy victory. It was a typical

Sunshine effort with supporters left biting their fingernails until very late in the game.

After going into the break locked at 1-1 it was only until the 78th minute that Georgies fans could breath a little easier. George Siefendorfas finished off with a hat trick while Tony Saric and Eddie Soares continued the late brace that gave Sunshine the strong win.

Altona beat Western Suburbs
 A 35th minute goal to Doug Mladenovic direct from a corner was enough to secure Altona Magic their sixth and final home victory for the season. Altona also managed to lock away fifth spot giving the club plenty of confidence come next season.

Western Suburbs nerves were quite high during this match knowing full well that a loss could have put them in the dangerous relegation play off

SL1 RESULTS - Final Round
Altona Magic 1 Western Suburbs 0
Fawkner Blues 1 Whittlesea Zebras 3
Sunshine George Cross 5 Preston Lions 1
FC Bulleen Lions 3 North Geelong Warriors 2
Port Melbourne 0 Pascoe Vale 2
Langwarrin 3 Southern Stars 4
Under 21s: Rd 22: Altona Magic 0 Western Suburbs 4, Fawkner Blues 1 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Sunshine George Cross 2 Preston Lions 2, FC Bulleen Lions 3 North Geelong Warriors 2, Port Melbourne 0 Pascoe Vale 2, Langwarrin 2 Southern Stars 2

SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whittlesea Z	22	13	5	4	44	23	44
Southern Stars	22	13	5	4	44	26	44
Port Melbourne	22	13	5	4	32	19	44
Pascoe Vale	22	10	3	9	40	28	33
Altona Magic	22	10	5	7	34	29	32
North Geelong	22	9	2	11	32	37	29
Sun George X	22	8	4	10	31	33	28
Bulleen Lions	22	8	4	10	27	31	28
Western Subs	22	8	2	12	24	39	26
Langwarrin	22	6	7	9	34	39	25
Fawkner Blues	22	6	3	13	21	27	21
Preston Lions	22	4	3	15	24	56	9

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	22	16	2	4	75	23	50
Pascoe Vale	22	14	1	7	51	37	43
Fawkner Blues	22	12	6	4	47	30	42
Southern Stars	22	12	3	7	54	43	39
Western Subs	22	11	2	9	42	47	35
Whittlesea Z	22	10	4	8	42	36	34
North Geelong	22	9	4	9	36	28	30
Langwarrin	22	7	3	12	31	63	24
Port Melbourne	22	6	5	11	32	44	23
Sun George X	22	6	3	13	39	58	21
Altona Magic	22	6	3	13	35	47	18
Preston Lions	22	3	4	15	30	58	12

spot, it wasn’t to be Suburbs survive another season thanks to results going their way, rebuilding under coach Lenney Catalano should start early for the Westerners.

After the match Western Suburbs President spoke to Goal Weekly! “Not much to say about the season it was very bad from us but the federation need to do more about player contracts. There are some players who switch from club to club during the season for 5 and 10 cents extra, the federation need rules. If they want soccer to improve in this country they need to forget about the imports that come to collect their paychecks and go. The play-offs are also no good for the game they really need to stop this if they want football to grow.”

Bullen winners and survivors over North Geelong
 FC Bullen did not manage to introduce many of their youngsters from their under 21-championship team that only lost 4 times all season. The Lions were one of the four teams who found they were battling to stay away from the 3rd last spot on the last day.

The early nerves had kicked in at the Veneto Social Club as both teams went into the break locked at 1-1 but goals to North Geelong’s Michael Anderson and Justin Hanns was not enough for the Warriors who last week ensured their survival with a victory against Altona Magic. Bul-len clearly meant business from the word go as they secured their 8th and final victory of the season.

Final Note
 Well, that was the year it was without a doubt one of the most entertaining and dramatic seasons in the history of football in this country. On behalf of Goal Weekly and myself a massive thank you must go out to Jon Vonk, Jim Condolis, Frank Carbone, Dean Hennessey, Gus McLeod, Ante Skoko, Rubin Todorovski, Victor Brincat and to all the clubs who have been a part of history which can only been seen in football.

Werribee City - State North West 2

All it took was two first half crosses delivered with precision from the boot of Simon Zappia to the head of Martin Collins for Bees to take an unassailable 2-0 lead against Geelong and lock-in a Championship winning victory in the final round of the FFV's State League 2 North West Division. The Bees have now earned promotion into the State League 1 for next season and it is a Championship win that was richly deserved and earned through the hard work of the players, coaching staff and administrators of this proud club.

Following their promotion to State League 2 in 2006, the Bees have been knocking on the door of promotion finishing top 5 and runners up twice. With the signing of experienced players Harry Matkovic, Marko Kuna, Steve Ilosifidis and goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj promotion for the Bees in 2011 was certainly looking very promising. With the pre season tournament (Mario Costa Cup) only two weeks away the bees were confronted with a long list of pre season injuries. Young guns Brad Murray, Chris Williams and James Daly stepped up to

the challenge and the Bees were crowned winners after beating Whittlesea Zebras on the final round of the tournament.

With only two weeks left the Senior and Reserve squad headed up the highway and set their training camp at Cobram which ended with a friendly match between Victory and City.

By the first round the Bees were ready for the challenge and with the support of major sponsor Renascent and the backing of the Italian Sports Club Werribee they embarked on a display of entertaining football undefeated for the next 7 rounds. As round 8 approached the Bees headed to Dunstan Reserve to face what was to be their strongest and most feared challenge for the season resulting in a 3 nil loss and faced with thoughts of uncertainty to what the remainder of the season will bring. By round 15 after 6 rounds of rollercoaster ride and at the eve of the transfer window closing the Bees added strength to their squad by signing ex socceroo Danny Tiatto, Craig Moore (who made a 1 game guest appearance) and young guns Simon Zappia and Brian Chesson to recommence a blistering run



to the Championship with new appointed Coach Nino Ragusa at the helm. The Bees were undefeated in the final 8 rounds of the season, drawing 1 game and winning the remaining 7.

The great news for the Bees does not end here. For the first time in recent memory, the Bees will have all Junior teams from U12 through to U16 playing in the A division of their respective leagues after the promotion of the U11, U12, U13 and the rest maintaining their spots from the 2011 season and with the U11, U12, U15 respectively winning their league.

STATE NORTH WEST 2						Final Standings			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P	
1 Werribee City	22	16	5	1	41	17	24	50	
2 Whittlesea Ranges FC	22	14	5	3	35	16	19	47	
3 Brunswick City	22	14	3	5	53	25	28	42	
4 Moreland City	22	12	2	8	59	34	25	38	
5 Ballarat Red Devils	22	11	3	8	41	34	7	36	
6 Altona East Phoenix	22	8	2	12	31	36	-5	26	
7 Banyule City	22	6	6	10	24	38	-14	24	
8 FC Clifton Hill	22	7	5	10	27	36	-9	23	
9 Westgate	22	7	3	12	31	39	-8	21	
10 Altona City	22	6	3	13	27	39	-12	21	
11 Geelong	22	6	2	14	25	53	-28	17	
12 Williamstown	22	4	3	15	18	45	-27	12	



Former Soccerroos Craig Moore, Joe Spiteri and Danny Tiatto turned out as guest players for Werribee City. Photo: LYNNE REVELL



goal! Weekly

Kiss My Grass Dept.

Back Row: Nino Ragusa (Coach), Daniel Iuele, Martin Collins, Zoran Pajic, Jim Wibskov, Vito Cichello, Milan Savic, Nenad Kukic, Nem Vucic, Vito Falcone (Ass. Coach), Ashley Lymn, Bobby Slobodan.

Front row: Joe Spiteri, Simon Zappia, Bradley Murray, Brian Chesson, Danny Tiatto, Parek Wol. Dominic Marafioti (Absent), Darren Lewis (Absent)

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Dandenong City - State South East 2

Proudly sporting the clubs new look Guernsey for 2011, the Hajduk boys who have been battling away in the Victorian State League Division 2SE for the last seven years, have final gotten themselves promoted to Division One for the first time in the clubs recent history in 2012.

A product of the merger of the former Chelsea Hajduk & Dandenong City, this season under legendary Josip Biskic, the team has performed consistently all season & wrapped

up the league with two games to go. Having set some fairly high goals at the end of last season, the club set about firstly securing the services of Biskic as senior coach for season 2011. Along with his assistants Jim Michaels & Nick Calapa, the club went on a recruitment drive to fill the positions that Biskic believed were required to secure the championship. With probably the biggest & most loyal following in Div2 SE, The Dandy City boys set about grinding out results from the start of the year with

a solid defence & decent strike force. Celebrations will be fairly short lived as we go about bolstering the squad further to replace retiring players & prepare ourselves for the added intensity of Division one. The goals this year certainly would not have been achieved without the contributions of our many sponsors, members, volunteers & supporters. A huge thank you to them all. This one is for you all.....

STATE SOUTH EAST 2						Final Standings		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Dandenong City	22	16	2	4	52	20	32	50
2 Box Hill United	22	12	6	4	35	21	14	42
3 Malvern City	22	13	1	8	44	33	11	40
4 Eastern Lions	22	10	8	4	31	17	14	38
5 Morwell Pegasus	22	9	6	7	44	28	16	33
6 South Springvale	22	9	2	11	35	42	-7	29
7 Noble Park Utd	22	9	2	11	36	44	-8	29
8 Diamond Valley Utd	22	7	6	9	33	44	-11	27
9 Casey Comets	22	7	5	10	35	24	11	26
10 Doncaster Rovers	22	6	4	12	24	38	-14	22
11 Heatherton Utd	22	6	2	14	21	49	-28	20
12 Knox City	22	5	2	15	20	50	-30	17




Dario Matkovic scores in the 4-1 win over Diamond Valley earlier in the season.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Fans and players celebrate the title and club President Tony Dorotich is raised aloft.
Photo: GEORGE STOGIANNOU



Back row: Nick Calapa, Ivan Filipovic, Joe Biskic (Coach), Sash Ancevski, Michael Santoro, Danny Black, Josip Klarica(Vice captain), Steven Ancevski, Ivan Klarica, Vlado Juric, John Carrol, Ivan Gelemanovic(Captain), Ramsey Nasser, Robert Jakovljevic(Vice president), Tony Dorotic(President).
Front row: Dario Matkovic, Zoran Tudor, Roger Machado, Aaron Li, Tomi Razov, Wayne Gordon, Vito Pirozzi, Ivan Bajo, Ljuban Palinic.
Missing from Photo: Goran Jozelic & Julius Adeosun.



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Keilor Park - State North West 3

The 2011 season was unfinished business from the season gone past. After narrowly missing out on promotion in 2010, it was important to retain and build on the good season from last year. The Club was able to retain the entire player list and additionally boost it for 2011. The extensive Club junior structure is now reaping benefits, with many juniors filtering into the senior squads.

Preseason was a rigorous schedule as it was important to ensure the squad was in peak physical condition for the start of the season.

Practice matches before the season commenced, demonstrating that the team had a lot of potential with good results against quality opposition in leagues above us.

The introduction of the Mirabella Cup gave the side higher intensity matches pre and during the season. Firstly defeating Altona City in round 1, Werribee City in round 2, followed by Westgate in round 3. This brought the team to face a Premier league side in Melbourne Knights (who were eventual runners up in the competition). With the Westgate game being postponed due to bad weather, the team's game schedule was gruelling to say the least, having to face Melbourne Knights as a third game in only six days with very little time to recoup. The team was extremely competitive, with the half time result only being nil : 1 down. Eventually, the extensive playing time caught up with the team, losing to the Knights.

The focus remained on the Championship, and a return to second division. The season started with a convincing win over Yarraville with the score line 2 : 0, however the score line did not show the true reflection of the game, as Keilor finished the game with plenty of run. This would be a catalyst to the season ahead, as in many of the games Keilor Park just ran over teams in the second half of matches.

As the season progressed the home form was rock solid with 10 wins and 1 draw. Away form was somewhat mixed, and much depended on the grounds being played on however the team did manage 5 wins away from home.

Other than a couple of games around round 14, were the team found it difficult to pick up

points, conceding its first and only loss for the season at Sunbury which we were very unlucky to loose, hitting the crossbar , and with a couple of one on ones. If it weren't for the opposition goalkeeper on the day the result would have been very much different. A string of draws brought the nine point lead to the second side down to only four points with a superior goal difference. However, the team bounced back winning games and picking up points when others weren't.

The season was officially wrapped up with two games to go. Despite not needing to pick up points in the last two games, the team with no pressure on them went in demolition mode, winning 11:1 in the second last game, and 6:1 in the last game against the ladder runners up. The team ended the season scoring 56 goals (an average of 3 per game), conceding on 16 for the season. So with combination of forward line with a capacity to score, and a disciplined defence, linked with the a creative and structured midfield the team collected 49 points for the season, with 10 points clear to second place runners up.

The success of the Club and the team has come down to believing in its inner self. The coaching staff are all ex Keilor Players and coaches, and have coached at the Club for a number of years. The players are the product of our junior development, and it was rewarding to see such exciting matches by players who it seems like only yesterday started off with the Club. A small but loyal supporter base tracked their teams every match.

Community Clubs such as Keilor Park rely on local support, and Colorspan Industries have back the Club and team as the Major sponsor for over 10 years. A small family business who have invested in the local community through the Club.

So, what's next? With a sound structure, and thriving junior set up and a new belief within the club, the sky's the limit!

Keilor Park will want to build on the success of 2011. With the wealth of talent within the Club, the future looks bright for the Keilor Park S.C.



STATE NORTH WEST 3						Final Standings		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Keilor Park	22	14	7	1	56	16	40	49
2 La Trobe University	22	12	3	7	33	32	1	39
3 Melbourne University	22	10	6	6	36	20	16	36
4 Sunbury Utd	22	10	4	8	39	28	11	34
5 Yarraville Glory	22	9	7	6	38	31	7	34
6 Sydenham Park	22	9	6	7	46	34	12	33
7 Avondale Heights	22	9	5	8	34	31	3	32
8 Whittlesea Utd	22	8	8	6	38	41	-3	32
9 Hume Utd	22	8	5	9	34	32	2	29
10 Cairnlea	22	7	3	12	45	52	-7	24
11 Maribyrnong Greens	22	4	2	16	41	71	-30	14
12 Geelong Rangers	22	2	4	16	29	81	-52	10



Keilor Park push the Melbourne Knights to the limits in their Mirabella Cup tie. Photo: MELINDA CIMERA



L-R Back row: Vic Cutajar (Team Manager), Joel Pilcher, Sean Sacco, Steven Mussel, Ben Malaga, Julian Di Vincenzo, Atef El Dib, Anthony Sacco (Coach), Paul Falzon (Ass Coach)
L-R Front Row: Daniel Commisso, Michael Mazzarino, Nathan Millishios, Derek Galea, Alfonse Cardinale, Grant Mussel, Peter Ignatidis, Lorenzo Carbone, Rino Damianou
Absent: Ashley Gusman, Jason Ioanniadis, Aaron Muzarferovic, Jamie Porter,

Springvale City - Provi South East 1

After a gruelling and lacklustre year of 2010 where Springvale City was relegated out of State 3 South East with a miserly 7 points the battle was to re group in 2011 and find structures and stability through the coaching staff and players to challenge Provisional League 1 South East.

Michael Tapai who previously had successful stints as the senior coach at Springvale City was appointed in mid January along with reserve player and assistant Jason Dunker.

The mission for the coaches was to get stability in the current squad of players and also recruit good quality players as well as good quality people. The major concern was to get the players to believe in themselves and turn the losing feeling from the 2010 year, into a winning culture and mentality.

The new inclusions to the team were Ali Osmani (striker/midfield), Kosta Olabuntu (striker/midfield), Emir Habibovic (midfield), Yehya Dimassi (goalkeeper).

And key players from year 2010 were retained in Semir Habibovic (sweeper/captain), Elvedin Klancevic (striker), Jasmin Limic (midfield), Alex Phillip (midfield), Alija Karic (midfield), Kasim Omerdic (defender).

Also young talent from previous year in Henok Solomon (defender), Thom Lino (striker), Malesh Jadeile (midfield), Hazim Omerovic (defender).

The 2011 campaign started with 2 Mirabella Cup matches with 2 excellent results in a 2-0 win over Keysborough (Provisional 2 S/E) and 1-1 draw (losing on penalties) with highly

fancied Dandenong City (State 2 S/E champions).

So the confidence was well up from week 1 of season 2011.

During the course of the season the discipline, motivation and endeavour of the players was good, and duly brought about the fantastic season that Springvale City had to become champions for the first time in 20 years.

Some outstanding performances by players were by the captain and leader of the team Semir Habibovic, who not only was the clubs Best and Fairest but also completed all 22 games and scoring 5 goals along the way, and a major reason why the team had 10 clean sheets. Ali Osmani who had a serious injury in 2010 which prevented him from playing in 2010, got better as the year went on, notching up the clubs top goal scorer with 14 goals for the season and also remarkably scoring in 8 consecutive games.

Springvale City completed the year as champions of Provisional 1 South East for 2011 with 52 points, 58 goals for and remarkably just 16 goals against.

All the credit must go to the players and coaching staff in Michael Tapai and Jason Dunker, who had the vision and belief in the playing group to achieve and exceed the clubs goals set out for 2011.

- 1.Ali Osmani (14)
- 2.Elvedin Klancevic (10)
- 3.Kosta Olabuntu (10)
- 4.Semir Habibovic (5)
- 5.Alija Karic (5)
- 6.Adis Lolic (4)
- 7.Jasmin Limic (3)
- 8.Fedza Softic (2)



PROVI SOUTH EAST 1							Final Standings	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Springvale City	22	16	4	2	58	16	42	52
2 Beaumaris	22	15	2	5	56	36	20	47
3 Old Melburnians	22	12	7	3	60	27	33	43
4 Sandringham SC	22	12	3	7	58	39	19	36
5 Warragul Utd	22	11	3	8	47	30	17	36
6 Mooroolbark	22	10	4	8	47	40	7	34
7 Hampton Park United	22	8	6	8	40	43	-3	27
8 Brandon Park	22	7	4	11	25	37	-12	25
9 Old Camberwell Grammar	22	6	4	12	30	40	-10	22
10 Monash University	22	5	6	11	30	52	-22	21
11 Skye Utd	22	3	4	15	36	71	-35	13
12 Lyndale Utd	22	1	5	16	24	80	-56	8



Ali Osmani (left) gets a high five from his captain, Semir Habibovic, after scoring Springvale City's third goal in a 3-0 win over Warragul United earlier in the season. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Springvale City savour their first half goal in the win against Beaumaris earlier in the season. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



goal! Weekly

Kiss My Grass Dept.

Third Row (Left to right): Liridon Shkerrjeli, Hariz Omerovic, Thom Lino, Henok Solomon & Alex Phillip
Second Row (Left to right) (GK): Yehya Dimassi, Kasim Omerdic, Ali Osmani, Hazim Omerovic, Malesh Jadeile, Kosta Olabuntu, (GK) Kadir Puric
First Row (Left to right): Jasmin Limic, Alija Karic, Coach Michael Tapai, Assistant Coach Jason Dunker, (Cpt) Semir Habibovic, Edvin Trakosevic
Absent Players – Elvedin Klancevic, Fedza Softic & Emir Habibovic

My Years with the Falcons

By Roy Hay

If anyone was ever synonymous with a football club then Don di Fabrizio was always Mr Morwell Falcons. He was more than that of course. A successful businessman, ASF and Soccer Australia Commissioner, Andy Kun Medalist and Trustee of the VSF and Life Member of both organisations and holder of the Order of Australia and the title of Cavaliere Ufficiale awarded by the Italian government, his list of activities and honours goes on and on. He is also a Director of the Immigration Park in Gippsland maintaining a life long interest in migrants to this country.

Born in the Abruzzo in Italy in 1933 he came to Australia in 1954 and found work as a rigger in Geelong. A year later he was in Morwell working as a steel erector on the power station. By 1963 he and his brother John set up their own construction company, which quickly became one of the leading firms in Latrobe Valley.

He has just published the story of his involvement of with the Falcons, where his organisational ability, his competence

and his financial standing saw him pitchforked into the presidency of the club in 1970. As he said afterwards, 'When I was appointed president I didn't have a clue about running a club, I wasn't voted president by choice.' But it was an inspired choice. With the assistance of his brother John and a small group of friends he turned the club into a powerhouse, first in the Valley and then in Victoria.

Falcons won the Provisional League in 1974 and 1975. In 1976, Falcons finished as runner-up in the Provisional League to Geelong, but it was Falcons which was promoted to the Metropolitan League that year, much to the disgust of the Geelong club. Falcons finished runner-up to Doncaster Rovers in 1977 in Division Four, thus justifying their promotion.

By 1981 Morwell was in Division One of the Metropolitan League and though finishing 9th it found itself in the State League in 1982. In 1984 when four Victorian clubs joined the NSL, Morwell won the State League for the first time, a feat it was to repeat in 1989.

In 1992 the well-run club was given a place in the National

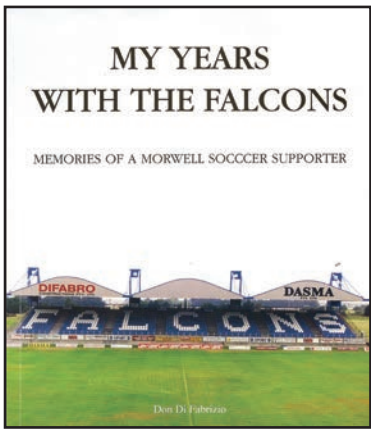
Soccer League, replacing Preston Makedonia. In 1994-95 it reached the play-offs for the first and only time, losing to South Melbourne by 6-1 over two legs of the Elimination Final. In succeeding seasons the club struggled in the lower reaches of the ladder when the continual battle to raise financial support was compounded by the economic malaise facing the Latrobe Valley.

Yet as long as Don di Fabrizio was involved the club was successful on and off the field. He held together a disparate group of people most of whom had great enthusiasm but little of Don's strategic vision and ability to conjure support from outside the club to achieve its aims. In many ways he is a parallel to Frank Lowy in that he conquered the world of business but then used all the skills developed in service of a sport he had grown to enjoy. Like Frank only more so, he put his own back and money into building the club facilities when he was president of the club.

Obviously the book tells the story from Don's point of view and there will be others involved with the club over the years who have a different perspective. But if you want to get an insight into

what is involved in achieving success for a regional club in a state and national sport then this book is an eye-opener. He is enormously generous to the people who helped him at various stages in the story of the club. The fund raising and work behind the scenes of the women involved with the club is recognized, albeit briefly.

He also has a very interesting view of the David Hill episode when he was an ASF/Soccer Australia Commissioner. He was responsible for bringing together the Australian referees into a single body, assisting in reconciling women's football organisations with the male game, promoting junior development and accrediting and incorporating players agents in the aftermath of the Stewart Report. He helped with the restructure of the National Soccer League, though his approach would have been to introduce the new teams and allow them to succeed rather than the more crash-through-or-crash strategy of his chairman. He was the driving force behind the ASF's Hall of Fame, which recognises the contributions of players, officials and people like himself to the game in this country.



My Years with the Falcons. Cover.



Don di Fabrizio at the FFV Gold Medal night 2011. Photo: Roy Hay.



Don di Fabrizio and Bobby McLachlan (left) with the Victorian State League trophy. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Dodd Inspires Glory over UAE

Travis Dodd has scored a spectacular bicycle kick to help Perth Glory to a 2-1 win over the United Arab Emirates U-23 side in a practice game at AK reserve.

In the Glory's last hit-out before the team heads to Sydney, Dodd's second half strike sealed a deserved win.

"I have to say (the goal) was inspired by Danny Vukovic," Dodd joked after the game.

"He practises them at training and as soon as I saw the ball sitting up, I thought I have to have a crack at it."

With two games in Sydney next week against A-League sides Central Coast and Sydney FC, Perth Glory coach Ian Ferguson rotated his squad, with the likes of Burns, Smeltz, Miller, Vukovic and van den Brink all rested.

The rotations meant some of Perth Glory's younger stars were given a start and Tommy Amphlett made the most of it.

Playing down the right, Amphlett

was a constant threat all night and his cross-field pass on eight minutes caught the opposition.

Amphlett's brilliant pass was headed back across goal by Andrezinho before Adam Taggart headed home from close range.

It took the UAE a while to settle but they should've equalised on 31 minutes, only to be denied by an incredible double save on the goal-line from Chris Coyne and Josh Risdon.

But the equaliser did arrive 4 minutes later when Ali Mabkhout rifled home a shot from 20 meters.

Dodd came on at the start of the second half - replacing Billy Mehmet- and he was immediately in the action, forcing a save from the visiting keeper.

In a lively start after the break, Perth Glory continued to press with Taggart and Amphlett combining well down the right.

The pressure eventually paid off and when Dodd latched onto Amphlett's cross.

On the ground and with his back to goal, Dodd somehow managed to connect to Amphlett's cross with a stunning bicycle kick on 63 minutes.

Dodd said the UAE will be a tough match for the Qantas Olyroos in the 2012 London Olympic qualifier on September 21 in Adelaide.

"I'm sure Aurelio Vidmar (Olyroo Coach) has got the quality in the squad and the tactics to play well and get the three points."

Perth Glory: 2 (Taggart 8', Dodd 63.)
UAE U-23: 1 (Mabkhout 35')
AK Reserve, Mt Claremont
Perth Glory starting line-up:
20.Young, 2.Mitchell, 4. Mehmet, 6.Coyne, 9.Pritchard (from Floreat Athena), 14.Mcgarry (c), 15.Amphlett, 17.Howarth, 19.Risdon, 22.Taggart, 27.Andrezinho



Perth Glory line up against the visiting UAE under 23s. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN

Cubs secure Lions title



Eastern Lions clinched the State League SE 2 reserves championship on Saturday after defeating rivals Diamond Valley. The title decider capped off a tribute luncheon held at the club in honour of the recently passed Clive Wright. All four teams, reserves and seniors from Eastern Lions and Diamond Valley lined up prior to kick off and marked their respect with a minutes silence.





TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

With Mike Lilikakis

So, you know I love recaps. As a budding History Professor and ubiquitous Theologian I can't help but ponder the wonders of the year in yore, and allow the potato chips to fall where they may. Considering that seagulls are in abundance this time of the year and are strength in numbers, that is a grand proposal. Seagulls and Disprin. Wonderful concoction.

Enough gay banter. 2011 was thus.

(Insert Beethoven's Piano Concerto #5 here, und press play.)

Das Jahr war in vielerlei Hinsicht einzigartig. Mein schlechtes! OOPS! Sorry, I was speaking in Deutsche. My bad. Allow me to return the Sudetenland post haste. Ahem. The year was unique in many ways. One can deduce simply from the number itself, 2011, that it had a phenomenal shape and form and possibly belonged on display in a museum.

JANUARY

Governor of Punjab Province, Pakistan, Assassinated (Jan. 4): Gov. Salman Taseer is shot getting into his car by Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri, an elite-force security guard, who is apprehended immediately after the shooting. Not very nice considering security involves protecting the one you have just murdered.

At Least 8 Die in Australian Flooding (Jan. 10): At least 8 people are dead and over 70 missing after massive flooding ravages Brisbane, Australia. The area has seen weeks of heavy rain and flooding, killing at least 18 people over the past two months. The region had been suffering from drought for 10 years.

24 Die in Tunisian Protests (Jan. 11): At least two dozen people, mainly young civilian men, are killed in government protests in Tunisia. The protesters are unhappy with the chronic unemployment they are facing in the country, as well as perceived police brutality. After 23 years of authoritarian rule, President Ben Ali flees Tunisia for Saudi Arabia amid protests. It is the first time a President of an Arab country has been overthrown because of widespread protesting.

In Mob Sweep, F.B.I. and Police Arrest Over 100 (Jan. 20): The F.B.I. and local police arrest around 125 suspected mobsters among seven families in New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. Charges included murder, racketeering, and extortion. Pity they can't add singing Soprano to that either. Underbelly XIV in the making.

Bombing in Moscow Airport Kills At Least 35, Wounds 168 (Jan. 24): A suicide bomber kills at least 35 and wounds at least 168 in an attack on a Moscow airport. The blast occurred in the international arrivals section of the airport. Authorities are as yet unsure who

masterminded the bombing. Oxy-moronic that blowing up and killing people is 'masterminded'.

Egyptian President Asks Army to Intervene After Days of Violent Protest (Jan. 28): After days of violent protest in Cairo, Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak calls the army into the streets to stop



the demonstrators, protesting over government corruption, the economy, and lack of personal freedom. Those involved called the event a "day of wrath"; the protests have stretched on for four days. Ominous portends in the lands of the crescent moon. And the canals in Cairo are still floating the corpses.

Φεβρουάριος -

Unrest in Middle East Spreads to Bahrain (Feb. 14): Violence erupts in Bahrain as protestors, inspired by recent events in Egypt and Tunisia, select Feb. 14th as a day of protest to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the National Action Charter. Bahrain is the most recent country facing upheaval among its citizens, mirroring the instability in Yemen, Iran, and Libya.

Earthquake Strikes New Zealand's Second Largest City (Feb. 22): A 6.3-magnitude earthquake hits Christchurch, New Zealand, killing at least 75 people. The U.S. Geological Survey reports the earthquake is part of an aftershock sequence from a 7.1 earthquake that hit the same area last Sept. It's crazy how devastating earthquakes have hit and smashed prospective World Cup hosting countries in the same year, or just prior toas they are hosting said World Cup. 1960, Chile suffered the greatest earthquake recorded (9.5 magnitude), 1977 in San Juan, Argentina



with a 7.4; in 1985 in Mexico City (8.1) just a year before the 1986 FIFA World Cup; In 1994, the 6.7 Northridge earthquake shook the city of Los Angeles (USA), causing \$12.5 billion in damage and 72 deaths. 2007 in the West Indies; Antigua and Trinidad were jolted on Tuesday by an early morning earthquake, just prior to the Cricket World Cup matches. Thus be warned plebs. Spend hundreds of millions greasing palms of diplomats and officials to curry favour and host a World Cup can lead to another dose of billions of dollars in repairing infrastructure, and weeping over the loss of loved ones. A quake with a magnitude of 5.1

Libya on Brink of Civil War (Feb. 24): Civilians and defected soldiers seeking the removal of Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi hold off his forces in cities close to Tripoli, Libya's capital. Unlike the Facebook-enabled youth rebellions in neighboring Egypt and Tunisia, the insurrection in Libya is being led by people who have been actively opposing the regime for some time. In a series of determined stands these rebel forces are proving to be a well-armed revolutionary movement. Security Council Approves Sanctions on Libya (Feb. 26): The UN Security Council votes unanimously to impose strong sanctions on Libya's leader, Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi, and his inner circle of advisers. The council also calls for an international war crimes investigation into "widespread and systemic attacks" against Libyan citizens. Amazing how quick the UN and the rest of the 'free world' can jump on someone's back soon as instability erupts into violence, and a crack of oil is available. 30 years the Libyans have been smashed, but NOW its seemed as a good time to act.

MARTXOAK -

Egyptian Protestors Demand Faster Change and Accountability (March 6); Upheaval Continues in Libya; Yemen President Rejects Proposal to Step Down (March 7); Thousands Protest in Bahrain; Interim Government Dissolves State Security Dept. in Tunisia (March 8); Bahrain Cracks Down on Demonstrators (March 18);

THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS THUS FAR...

No-Fly Zone is Imposed in Libya (March 19); Military Kill Protestors in Syria (March 25): Troops open fire in the southern part of Syria after tens of thousands take to the streets in peaceful protests around the nation. At least twenty demonstrators are killed. In a Nutshell, all the aforementioned countries in January cracked down on protestors, inflaming the 'peace process', copping scorn and derision from the 'Western' most civilized and ultimately most hypocritical nations about truth, justice and the American Way...ahem, I mean democracy. Hawaiian Volcano Erupts (March 7): The Kilauea Volcano, thought to be one of the most active in the world, erupts, spewing lava through new cracks. The eruption causes more than 150 detectable earthquakes in the area, but no damage is reported.

Massive 9.0 Magnitude Earthquake and Tsunami Devastate Japan (March 11): Japan is hit by an enormous earthquake that triggers a deadly 23-foot tsunami in the country's north. The earthquake, Japan's largest ever, hit about 230 miles northeast of Tokyo. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issues warnings for Russia, Taiwan, Hawaii, Indonesia, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and the west coasts the U.S., Mexico, Central America, and South America. Cooling systems in one of the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station fail shortly after the earthquake, causing a nuclear crisis.

TRAVNJA-

Gunman Opens Fire at Former School in Brazil (April 7): A 23-year-old former student returns to his public elementary school and begins firing, killing at least 12 children before shooting himself in the head. It is the worst school shooting Brazil has ever seen. Same ol' same ol'...guns don't kill people crap. Get a life and live it u muppets.

Series of Tornadoes Devastate Southern States (April 27): In one of the worst U.S. tornado seasons, 137 reported tornadoes sweep through the south, killing nearly 300 people in six states. Most of the fatalities occur in Alabama.



Three Billion Watch Prince William Marry Kate Middleton (April 29): A million people line the streets, half a million gather in front of Buckingham Palace, and two billion tune in via television or computer to see Kate Middleton marry Prince William. Middleton receives rave reviews for wearing a modern, but restrained wedding dress designed by Sarah Burton, the creative director for the late Alexander McQueen. Yay, more muppet show and plethoric capitulation of monetary force buying Women's Weekly for snapshots of the royals who do NOTHING ELSE but excel in trivial bullplop and milk the coffers of the Commonwealth. Pffff.

And herein lies the gist. I could go onto May, June, July, Augustus Caesar and Smellptember, but for what? To encapsulate the horrors of the world which is cracked, bleeding and irreparable. I haven't even mentioned the real kaka which is swept under the rugs of the Capitol Hills under the auspices of representation. Now look, I ain't no revolutionary in the vein of the greats...BUT, this I know. Change only comes when people hit hard times beyond scope, fathoming and control. I leave thee all, with these pearlers. Do what you will with them. After all, we as humans can think, speak and act according to the dictates of our own gifted conscience.

"Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night. When the clouds are full of water, it rains. When the wind blows down a tree, it lies where it falls. Don't sit there watching the wind.

Do your own work. Don't stare at the clouds. Get on with your life. Just as you'll never understand the mystery of life forming in a pregnant woman, So you'll never understand the mystery at work in all that God does.

Go to work in the morning and stick to it until evening without watching the clock. You never know from moment to moment how your work will turn out in the end. don't take a single day for granted. Take delight in each light-filled hour, Remembering that there will also be many dark days And that most of what comes your way is smoke.

You who are young, make the most of your youth. Relish your youthful vigor. Follow the impulses of your heart. If something looks good to you, pursue it. But know also that not just anything goes; You have to answer to God for every last bit of it.

And as for me? I'm a mess. I'm nothing and have nothing: I just wait for GOD to make something of me....but God, don't put it off. Grace and Peace be with you all through the LORD Jesus. Behold, He is coming back soon."

RSVP
Calvary
Tsigan UTD FC

LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

A year or so ago I announced that Liverpool should sell Fernando Torres and Steven Gerrard. My reasoning was that the resulting income would allow them to buy three or four good players, and thus improve an underachieving team.

The players I recommended were Edin Dzeko and Sergio Aguero – both now cutting up defences at Manchester City – as well as Dzeko's Bosnian teammate Zvezdan Misimovic. It didn't really come as much of a surprise that Torres left Liverpool. However, what did come as a massive surprise was the price Liverpool paid for acquiring his replacement Andrew Carroll. Whatever reasoning people from Merseyside use, Liverpool overpaid big time for the player – probably by about £20million – especially considering that Aguero cost City only a few million more.

Another huge surprise has been the complete loss of form by Fernando Torres. Consider this, Torres is now 4th choice striker for his country and is behind Daniel Sturridge at Chelsea. A few years ago that would have been unthinkable. Carroll, too, has had his fair share of adversity since switching to Anfield. So what has happened to these high-priced players and can they put it right?

It usually takes a foreign player about six months to a year to settle into his new surroundings. The Uruguayan Luis Suarez, who joined Liverpool from Ajax in the January transfer window, took very little time to settle, whereas Andrew Carroll hasn't looked like a Liverpool player at all since his arrival. Though leaving Tyneside might have felt to Carroll like leaving a foreign land, the real problem for him has been injury. Liverpool, quite bizarrely, signed him even though he had an injury which ruled him out for several weeks.

What should not be overlooked though is Carroll's relative inexperience at top level football. Here's a guy who only

started playing regularly (and in the lower divisions) when Newcastle got relegated from the EPL a few years ago. Last season was his first in the top flight and he performed pretty well before getting injured – a fact that many people seem to have forgotten. And it must also be said that Newcastle, unlike Liverpool, played more to Andy's strengths.

These shouldn't be used as excuses for his failure to perform for the reds. Carroll, for all his potential, has some serious flaws in his game. Like a lot of big men, he possesses a first touch that brings the ball nearer a defender than it does to his own feet. Good though he is in the air, he needs to improve his finishing and his movement if he is to become a top class striker. In short, his all-round game needs to improve drastically before he becomes a top-class number nine. Carroll has to start by adopting a more professional attitude to his conditioning. He hasn't been fully fit since his injury which, given he had the off-season to get fit, is shameful. Much garbage has been written about Carroll drinking too much. There's nothing wrong with a few drinks after a match to unwind down, but given that Carroll, at the best of times, is fairly static, he needs to take extra care with his diet during the season.

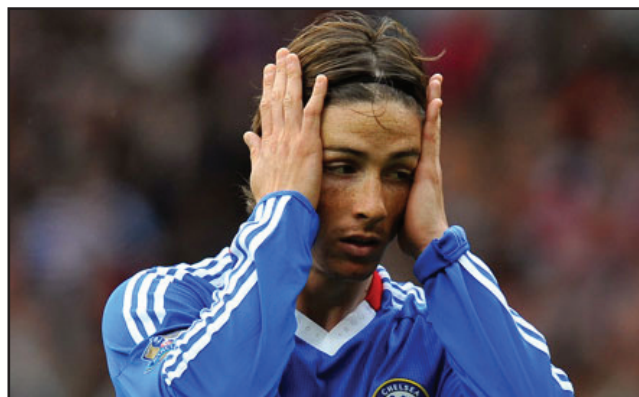
All is not lost. Earlier this week Newcastle legend Alan Shearer said of Carroll, "If there is one guy who'll get the best out of Andy it will be Kenny," Shearer added, "He'll be able to pass on all the experience and know-how he has gained...Andy hasn't had the best of starts to the season, but I'm sure he will come good."

And Carroll, 21, still has the potential to be the classic English centre forward that Liverpool thought they signed. If he's looking for a role model then he need look no further than Mario Gomez. The Bayern Munich centre forward signed for the Bavarian giants for a mas-

Not So Handy Andy



Andy Carroll is still adjusting to life and football in Merseyside.



Fernando Torres is still adjusting to life in London.



Arsenal are just plain bonkers.

sive fee and in his first season couldn't do anything right – scoring 19 goals in 54 appearances. Last year, he scored 43 goals in 55 appearances and this year, despite missing a catalogue of easy chances, has scored 15 goals in 14 appearances. He's still only 26 and his game has improved to such an extent that he's seen off the 'challenges' of Lukas Podolski, Luca Toni and Miroslav Klose. What Carroll needs now is a reminder of his responsibilities and enough help on the training ground to help improve his game.

Fernando Torres is a different case in point. At his best he was a devastating player who, one-

on-one, used to skin defenders like they weren't there. Injuries have cost him his acceleration and he hasn't been helped by a complete breakdown of confidence. He's only 27 but, unlike Carroll and Gomez, his game has been irrevocably changed by injuries. Torres just does not have the presence to be a target man and thus he's still playing in the same manner he did when he was lightning quick. Chelsea has a fundamentally different way of playing than both Atletico Madrid and Liverpool. They build up play very slowly and get crosses into the area. With Torres as the main striker they've had to adapt and it hasn't been easy. Torres will have to keep developing his

game and rely less on speed and trickery to get his goals. He also needs for his coach to sit him down and tell him that whatever happens he'll play because every striker needs to feel like he'll get a run of games to prove himself.

Arsenal: Defending the indefensible

After the 1-1 draw at Borussia Dortmund in midweek, assistant coach Pat Rice was quoted as saying that Arsenal had turned a corner. A

fter the 4-3 defeat at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, the casual observer could be forgiven for asking if Arsenal should forget about turning corners and start trying to defend them. Never

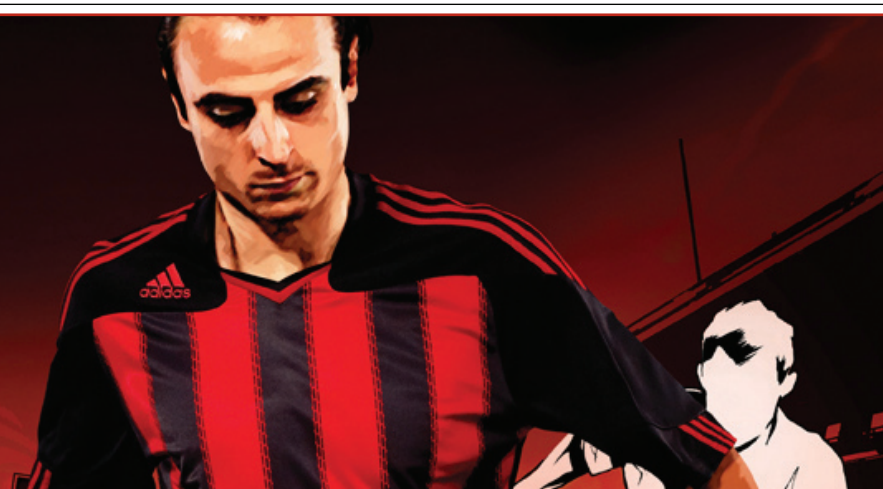
has a defender been more conspicuous in his absence than Thomas Vermaelen. They need him back if they are to finish in the top six.

The jury is out on Per Mertesacker. He's moved from an attractive Werder Bremen outfit that couldn't defend to an attractive Arsenal side that can't defend. He, like the other defenders, are too easily bullied off the ball.

The good news is that Arsenal's next three games are at home to Shrewsbury (Carling Cup), Bolton Wanderers (EPL) and Olympiakos (UCL). Three wins out of three will do a lot to stem the growing discontent surrounding the club.

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A look at the lighter side of football.

With Mark Boric

First of all, it is apology time. A few weeks ago, on September 5th, I wrote in this column that Lalor United had been fined \$19,500 and Maribyrnong Greens had incurred a \$22,000 penalty. Turns out my maths was wrong, which the FFV were quick to point out to me, as Lalor United were only fined \$12,000 the Greens \$15,000. I've got no problems admitting when I have made an error.

I'm glad that I now know the FFV still read this column, it means I may be able to ask them some pertinent questions in the future. Like how much did they have to pay over the Whittlesea Zebras debacle? And how much did the South Melbourne court case last year cost? If I don't get an answer, I can always just guess a figure knowing that after it is published I will get an email from the FFV informing me of the correct amount!

It was also pointed out that the match ball and apparel licensing information on the FFV website had been updated. I've also now been supplied with the full list of Gold Medal 2011 votes, which goes to show that this is the column which gets things done in Victorian football!

Which means, this being the last

edition for the year, we have little time to get things done. Let's start with the Hall of Fame. I've attended the last two Gold Medal Nights, and each year witnessed great people being inducted into the FFV's Hall of Fame. Yet if you looked at the FFV website you would not know the Hall of Fame existed. Surely we can get the full list of inductees and the pictures and brief bios of them used during the inductions recorded somewhere?

Finding out where the fines revenue is going may be a little trickier. One place it isn't, apparently, is to replace the poor surfaces at the Darebin International Sports Centre. They are worn flat like an old hallway carpet and I know of at least one player who has required two separate knee reconstructions from incidents when playing on them. Perhaps if our best juniors were able to utilise the best facilities, we could get more than one player into the Australian Under 16's Squad.

Looking at the dismal results of Melbourne Victory in previous National Youth Leagues, and of VTC Football in this year's AVPL, perhaps the FFV could hedge their bets on whether having themselves run the elite junior development pathways is the best idea by bringing back the

winter junior Super Leagues. At the moment, I'm not seeing any great leap forward since they were ditched.

Next, I've looked all through the results of the tribunal hearings but can find no details of when the suspension of the Oakleigh Cannons website is due to end! Everytime I click on a link from the FFV website the message "THIS WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" appears. It's been more than a year plus sixteen weeks, what did they do?

Looking at the match program from the Mirabella Cup Final I was drawn to the path to the finals of the teams in both the Mirabella Cup Final and Mirabella Regional Challenge Cup. From memory, AVPL clubs were charged \$500 entry fees for the Mirabella Cup, with the figure for State League clubs around \$200 (I stand to be corrected). This seems to be disproportionate, given the AVPL clubs entered the competition at a later stage and therefore got to play fewer matches. Hardly value for money. One entry fee for all, I say.

Finally, some things to work on for next season: Don't mix up what zone clubs are from when conducting a zonal draw for the Cup, don't advertise Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart competing for the Cup if they won't and don't take points off a club for fielding an ineligible player only to reinstate them a day later (i.e. sort out all the facts before deducting any points in the first place). That will do, for now.



Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

The end of Season 2011 is upon us, for some the spoils, for others the Westgate.

Saturday Night saw a plethora of Club Powerbrokers and Players converge upon Melbourne's finest Night Spots, where some were celebrating their Team's Happy End, whilst Others were drowning their sorrows for what could have been.

The finale to State League Division 1 was dramatic to say the least, with the outcome of the Langwarrin and Southern Stars Match impacting not only on the Promotion equation, but also the Westgate Playoff spot.

Southern Stars were down 3-2 with only minutes to play, however 2 quick goals in junk time saw them promoted, whilst at the same

time sending Langwarrin to the relegation playoffs.

Unfortunately for Port Melbourne, their loss to Pascoe Vale meant that they missed out on Promotion to the VPL, having been in Top Spot for most of the Year.

I am sure the Sharks will bounce back bigger and better next season, these last minute hits only make Clubs stronger to achieve success in the next season.

Whittlesea Zebras return back to the VPL in 2012, whilst Western Suburbs earned a last minute reprieve given that Langwarrin lost.

State League Division 2 South East Runners up spot came down to the last game between Box Hill and Malvern City FC, with Box Hill needing to win this one

to grab Runners Up Spot and a place in the Promotion Playoff's.

In front of a very healthy crowd on a picture perfect day, one goal to Box Hill early on in the second half was what separated these 2 Teams.

Over to the A-League we go, where Harry Kewell arrived in Melbourne during the week to commence his 3 year gig with the Melbourne Victory.

The A-League returns in earnest in a few weeks.

Short and Sweet this week

Thanks for the Memories, take care over the Summer Months and we will be back to do it all over again in 2012

This is Katsa - Just as you have known him

Weekend Scoreboard

Pellegrino strike downs Glory

A powerful finish by attacking midfielder Adriano Pellegrino was enough for the Central Coast Mariners to secure a 1-nil victory against Perth Glory at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga on Sunday afternoon.

The former Perth ace struck from close range just before half time, finally breaking the deadlock after Glory custodian Danny Vukovic produced a string of top class saves to deny the Mariners in the first 45.

Having been cut-down by Adam Hughes on the edge of the area, Pellegrino rifled home from six yards after Matt Simon's strong free kick deflected off the wall and fortuitously into his path. Meanwhile, Adelaide United FC will go into next Friday night's trial match against Melbourne Victory high on confidence after putting three past Brisbane Roar in a 3-0 result at Clive Berghofer Stadium in Toowoomba.

Despite being without the likes of captain Jon McKain, Dario Vidosic and

Andy Slory among others, the Reds were more than up for the challenge against last season's Hyundai A-League champions.

An own goal credited to Roar midfielder Massimo Murodocca after a deflection from a Spase Dilevski free kick, plus goals from Bruce Djite and young local South Australian trial player Michele LaStella gave the Reds the win on a night that Head Coach Rini Coolen asked his players to put their hand up and take their opportunity, and they duly obliged.

Midfielder Nick Carle missed a last minute penalty that consigned Sydney FC to a 0-1 loss to Newcastle Jets in an entertaining Hyundai A-League friendly at Baddely Park Cessnock tonight.

Carle had a golden chance to cancel out Newcastle midfielder James Virgili's first half opener when the visitors were awarded a spot kick in the 90th minute but the penalty hit the post and bounced to safety.

One considerable positive out of the match was the return to the pitch, and form, of teenager Terry Antonis, who was assured in midfield after missing most of the pre season through injury.

Although Antonis returned, Sydney FC was missing marquee man Brett Emerton, who arrived home earlier this morning, as well as, Karol Kisel, Pascal Bosschaert, Joel Chianese and Olyroo pair Sebastian Ryall and Rhyan Grant.

Sydney FC played well in patches, especially when Carle lifted and Scott Jamieson lit up the left flank late in the match, but were unable to take advantage with some wayward finishing.

Sydney FC will now look ahead to the clash with Perth Glory at WIN Jubilee Stadium (Kogarah), which is part of the Sydney FC Community Fan Day celebrations next Saturday afternoon (24 September). The match will also signify Brett Emerton's debut in a Sky Blue shirt.



Adelaide United proved too strong for the Brisbane Roar with a 3-0 win in Toowoomba. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Rd 22: Oak Park SC 6 Northern Utd 1, Tullamarine Jets 1 (A Gunsay) Mitchell Rangers 0, Bundoora Utd 4 Light Utd 2, Reserves: Rd 22: Oak Park SC 10 Northern Utd 0, Tullamarine Jets 5 (O Aosu AM Karasakal M Nazligul S Akdogan 2) Mitchell Rangers 3, Bundoora Utd 3 Light Utd 1,									
Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Rd 22: Endeavour Hills 2 Harrisfield Hurricanes 3, St Kevins 3 Sandown Lions FC 2, Parkmore 2 Glen Waverley 8, Old Haileybury 0 Ringwood City 7, Old Mentonians 3 Dandenong Wolves 2 Reserves: Rd 22: Endeavour Hills 0 Harrisfield Hurricanes 6, St Kevins 3 Sandown Lions FC 0, Parkmore 3 Glen Waverley 1, Old Haileybury 4 Ringwood City 7, Old Mentonians 2 Dandenong Wolves 4									
Mens Metropolitan League Central: Rd 22: Albert Park 0 Melbourne Lions 0, Yarra Jets 1 Caulfield Grammarians 1 Reserves: Rd 22: Yarra Jets 1 Caulfield Grammarians 3									
Womens State League Div 1: Rd QF: Preston Lions 0 Ballarat Lady Devils 1, Cairnlea 0 Monbulk Rangers SC 1									
Womens State League Div 2 North-West: Rd QF: FC Bulleen Lions 4 Yarra Jets 3, Western Eagles 3 Darebin Falcons 1									
Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Rd QF: Mornington 0 Berwick City 1, Sandringham 0 Mooroolbark 3									
Womens State League Div 3 North-West: Rd QF: Boroondara Eagles 5 Melton 1,									
Womens State League Div 3 South-East: Rd QF: Croydon City Arrows 0 Monash University 2									
Womens Metropolitan League North-West: Rd 18: West Preston 8 Kyneton District 2, Fawkner 0 Darebin Falcons 0, Altona City 5 Gisborne 3, Watsonia Heights 2 (G Cahill L Faels) Plenty Valley Lions 2									
Womens Metropolitan League South-East: Rd 18: Bayside Argonauts 6 Berwick City 0, Casey Comets 3 Beaumaris 1, Skye Utd 1 Mornington 3, Keysborough 1 Sandringham SC 4									
Womens Metropolitan League Central: Rd 18: Fitzroy City 2 Brunswick Zebras 0, Yarra Jets 0 Elwood City 4, South Melbourne 0 Port Melbourne 2 (K Sullivan 2), Keilor Park 4 (CJ Pastore A Dargham 2 C Gluhak) Maribyrnong Swifts FC 3									
Womens Metropolitan League East - North East: Rd 18: Swinburne University 0 Eltham Redback FC 1, Boroondara Eagles 7 Croydon City Arrows 0, Monash University 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2 (K Maddaffer G-Phillips), La Trobe University 10 (J Pope 2 D Fujito A Nasser E Stockdale 3 RL Ambrose J Wild-Lorenzetti 2) Mooroolbark 0, Deakin Lions FC 1 Monbulk Rangers SC 3									
Mens Thirds League Div 1: Rd 18: DOC Utd 5 Cleeland Utd 6, Doveton 0 Dandenong Thunder 5, Bayside Argonauts 0 Old Xaverians 3, South Yarra 9 La Trobe University 5 (J Xiong 2 E Alagic 3), Marcellin Old Collegians 1 Altona Lions 4									
Mens Thirds League Div 2 North-West: Rd 18: Melbourne University 3 Keilor Park 1, Moreland City 3 Northcote City 0, Gisborne 5 Plenty Valley Lions 1, La Trobe University 1 (D Berends) FC Strathmore 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 2 South-East: Rd 18: Riversdale 2 Melbourne University 1, Brandon Park 5 Monash University 2, Whitehorse Utd 2 RMIT Redbacks 3, Old Melbourneians 6 Boroondara Eagles 0, South Yarra 0 Scotch Old Boys 0									
Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Rd 18: Eltham Redback FC 4 La Trobe University 2 (P Lin 2), Altona City 5 (D Kalinic 2 I Kalinic D Jovetic S Pisak) Brimbank Stallions 2, Fawkner 1 Uni. of Melbourne 1, Upfield 4 Kyneton District 3, Hoppers Crossing 3 Melton 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Rd 18: South Yarra 1 Central Park Rangers 2 0, Bayside Argonauts 2 Old Xaverians 1, Old Melbourneians 5 Old Camberwell Grammar 4, Central Park Rangers 1 0 Monash University 1 (A Patterson), Dandenong Thunder 6 Beaumaris 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 4 North-West: Rd 18: Gisborne 3 Watsonia Heights 0, Altona City 9 Moreland Wolves 0, Melbourne University 0 North Sunshine Eagles 3, Uni. of Melbourne 2 1 Uni. of Melbourne 1 3									
Mens Thirds League Div 4 South-East: Rd 18: Elwood City 2 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Old Trinity Grammarians 3 Scotch Old Boys 2, Caulfield Cobras 10 Monash University 1 (M Keny), Marcellin Old Collegians 3 Middle Park FC 0, Old Melbourneians 7 Ashburton 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 5 North-West: Rd 18: Altona Magic 3 Cairnlea 5, Epping City 4 Tullamarine Jets 0, West Preston 2 Sydenham Park 7, Western Eagles 3 Uni. of Melbourne 0									
Mens Thirds League Div 5 South-East: Rd 18: Waragul Utd 13 Keysborough 1, Sandringham SC 4 Frankston Pines 1, Bunyip & District Soccer Club 2 RMIT Redbacks 4, East Bentleigh 3 (A McCarthy F Zuel Own Goal) Old Carey 1, Eltham Redback FC 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 6 North-West: Rd 18: Moreland Utd 3 Brimbank Stallions 2, Old Melbourneians 2 Kyneton District 0, Melbourne University 1 Scotch Old Boys 5, Heidelberg Eagles SC 2 Old Xaverians 2, Heidelberg Stars 4 Sunbury Utd 1, Hoppers Crossing 3 Bayside Argonauts 0									
Mens Thirds League Div 6 South-East: Rd 18: Old Mentonians 5 Endeavour Utd 0, Doveton 0 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 2, Ringwood City 5 Skye Utd 6 (F Dimu 3 A Gheorghiv D Attard), Sandringham SC 1 3 Sandringham SC 2 3, Brighton 1 Seaford Utd 2, Old Scotch SC 4 Beaumaris 2									
Mens Masters North-West: Rd 18: Whittlesea Zebras 2 Oak Park SC 4, Moreland City 0 Whittlesea Utd 3, Brimbank Stallions 0 North Sunshine Eagles 2, Keilor Wolves 7 Sporting Whittlesea FC 0									
Mens Masters North-North-East: Rd 18: Eltham Redback FC 3 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 1, Monash City 7 Glen Waverley 2, DOC Utd 3 Ashburton 1									
Mens Masters South-East: Rd 18: Doveton 3 Kingston City 0, Bayside Argonauts 7 White Star Dandenong 3, Caulfield Cobras 2 North Caulfield 2, Bentleigh Greens 3 Beaumaris 1									
Mens Masters Central: Rd 18: Collingwood City 5 Banyule City 3, South Yarra 10 Northcote City 0, Juventus Old Boys 2 Fitzroy City 4, FC Clifton Hill 3 Malvern City 5,									
Mens Metropolitan League North-West: P W D L F A PT Bundoora Utd 20 13 4 3 63 29 43 Tullamarine Jets 20 10 3 7 62 39 33 Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 19 11 1 7 40 29 31 Light Utd 20 9 3 8 43 34 30 Keon Park 20 10 2 8 40 50 28 Oak Park SC 20 7 6 7 33 30 27 Mitchell Rangers 20 6 3 11 30 39 21 Keilor Wolves 19 5 4 10 32 45 19 Northern Utd 20 3 4 13 22 70 10									
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V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 20

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Round 20
Wrap

Cup seedings undecided with 2 rounds left

By Matthew Montgomery

FC Melbourne v Ashburton FC (3-5)

The opening game of round 20 saw a game which was capable of going either way as Melbourne in 11th played Ashburton in 8th.

For the do-or-die encounter for both sides as Lee Dore – a much needed forward – returned and former Metro goal sneak, Jose Portillo made his debut for Ashburton. The inclusion of Portillo payed off immediately as he opened the scoring for his new side, putting his side in unfamiliar territory... the lead. Then moments later, Melbourne levelled as Ashburton keeper, Jamie Tran had a brain melt and tried to collect a loose ball on the half way line, only to be beaten by Dominik Rafati who set up Elias Stavridis for the equaliser.

As both sides traded blows and tried to maintain possession, James Blackburn shifted into top gear as he scored a quick double to reinstate the lead. He could have made it 3 but his shot was denied by the cross bar from close range. The later stages of the half were dominated by the Melbourne lads, as Stavridis went close to his second goal when he struck the left post, but Lee Dore went one better as he dispossessed Moe Alghorabi at the tip f the ‘D’ and sent his shot into the bottom right corner to make it 3-2 at the break.

The second half was a lot less un-eventful as both teams took a more defensive approach. The first chance of the second half fell to Melbourne defender, Mus Elorr as he streamed forward and threw himself at a cross in which his header beat Tran and also the far post. Happy to sit on their narrow lead, ‘the Green Machine’ were given a huge boost of confidence as Portillo found space and blasted into the top right corner for his second, and when Mark Burton beat his defender to calmly slot underneath Melbourne keeper Harry Kitharidis, the all valuable three points and top 98 consolidation was wrapped up at 5-2. Lee Dore instrumented a smart 1-2 with Mael Guilliou to make space in the ‘D’ to score his second and his sides third to complete the final 5-3 score line.

It was a great win by Ashburton who have now increased the pressure on those teams below them by creating a four-point buffer. Ashburton now look like the team that they had potential to be with the inclusion of Portillo, and with two games remaining, the top 8 could now possibly be set in place! Next target... Balwyn!

FC Essendon v CF Brunswick (6-9)

The next game on the round 20 card saw 7th placed Essendon go up against Brunswick in 5th. There were both major movements within both teams before kick-off as Essendon recruited former Ashburton keeper Chris Katsikogiannis, along with Ashburton defender Boris Masic who made his return after a two season absence.

Brunswick, similar to last week had quite a thin squad as Munya Nyadzayo was unavailable, yet Damir Marusic made his return. The first half was brought to life by Brunswick striker Ruz Roslan as he blasted his strike into the top right corner past Katsikogiannis. Then soon after in a strange turn of events, Essendon took the lead through Alex Hussein and Robert Shekari goals. Roslan soon equalised by beating two defenders and striking into the right corner, only for Essendon to take back the lead through Hussein’s second and Alex Stevanovic’s quickly taken free kick.

Not expecting to be behind, Roslan again came to the rescue with his third of the half to surprisingly keep his side in it 4-3 at the break. Having given Stevanovic too much space came to bite the Brunswick lads on the behind as he increased their lead with the first major play.

Two well-worked team goals from Mathieu Piga and Roslan were the result of staying



Brunswick’s Ruz Roslan was by far the man of the match for his side as he bagged 5 stunning goals and a possible goal of the week.

calm and believing in their abilities as the 5-5 score line shaped an exciting finale to the game. Stevanovic was able to regain the lead for Essendon by turning Piga with ease and striking past Chen for his third, but almost in an instant Piga got his revenge as he struck his second of the game and equalised yet again.

From this point on it was all Brunswick as they scored the next three goals through Danny Ngalaufe, Damir Marusic and yes again, Rus Roslan who scored his fifth of the game. It was quite a unconvincing win by Brunswick who have had some very indifferent performances of late, but it was the performance of Roslan – as the only out and out forward – who earned them the three points.

They cant afford any more slip ups next week as they face the talented Prahran next week.

FC Prahran v Albert Park FC (11-4)

The third clash of round 20 saw Prahran in 6th went up against a confidence filled Albert Park who although in last position on the ladder have earned a commendable 4 points from their last two outings.

Prahran remained unaltered from last week, only adding tricky midfielder Ahmed Muktar, whereas Albert Park were to play without their best player in Rodrigo who has been a major factor in their resurgence.

But in his place came debutant Glen Garrido and Matt Italiano also returned to the side. The first half kicked off in fairly similar fashion for Prahran as Maxi Avram opened the scoring who was left un-marked by the naïve Albert Park defence to shoot home. Marcus Barbosa doubled their lead soon after with a brilliant individual goal as he nutmegged both Felipe Rilling and keeper Kurt Fanourakis. Albert Park got back into the game with a clean finish from bean-pole striker, Mili Muratbegovic as he dispossessed Avram on halfway.

The minnows joy was short lived as Cameron Holmes was on hand to add a well deserved double. Matt Italiano could have reduced the deficit but he was kept from his first by the right post. Avram capped off a solid half for the favourites as he ducked and weaved past the Albert Park defence to defeat Fanourakis 1 on 1 and make it a comfortable 5-1 lead at half time.

The second half saw Prahran continue their dominance over their lower ranked opponents as Avram bagged his third of the game as his strike deflected off Fanourakis. Moments later, Matt Italiano converted a penalty as Michael Chami fouled Muratbegovic in the ‘D’. Chami

got a hand to it but couldn’t hold onto it as he fell the wrong way. With the scores locked at 6-2, strikes from Ahmed Muktar, Clint Mogoai and Barbosa’s second of the match all but killed off any chance of a Albert Park come back. Jaffar Al-Sari never threw in the towel as he scored a double – including a stunning header to make for a nervy finish, but Cameron Holmes’ 3rd and Avram’s 4th completed the 11-4 score line and ensured that Albert Park are doomed for the State League next season and that Prahran are still in the hunt for a top four finish.

Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC (9-5)

In what had potential to be match of the round, Pascoe Vale in 2nd place took on a 9th positioned Hume outfit that had brought along a squad that was worthy of a top four placing.

In recent weeks, Hume have struggled to put together a top 8 worthy squad, but with the likes of strikers Turhan Sumbul (last played in round 12), Andrew Nabout (formerly of Albert Park), captain Moe Tankir and debutant Salih Doren, they had a squad to be feared. Pascoe Vale on the other hand remained unaltered as young NSW keeper, Mark Brackenrig flew down to the nations strongest league for the second week in a row!

The first half went according to plan for the Pascoe Vale lads as a Joao Da Silva set the tone for the match with a goal which was deemed goal of the week as he rounded Mehmet Parlak and easily shot past Fethi Goren. Brazilian Compatriot and partner in crime, Andre Caro then added a quick double as he caught the Hume defence napping. As Hume struggled to muster a genuine threat on goal, their task was made even more difficult as Da Silva’s second and Caro’s third wrapped up the first half’s proceedings at an astonishing 5-0!

It could have been a lot worse for Hume as they had their keeper, Fethi Goren to thank as he made no less than 5 brilliant saves! The second half began with Da Silva also joining Caro on three goals to make it 6-0. It took a brilliant long range strike from the half way line from Moe Tankir who sent a rifle into the roof of the net to restore some score line respect, but Da Silva was again on hand to put Hume to the slaughter as he claimed his second bag of 5 goals in successive weeks.

Vadim Mazurskiy’s brilliant run from defence got him close enough to shoot past Goren, but he would be the last to score for Pascoe Vale as Hume made a late, late comeback.

A well-earned hat-trick from debutant Andrew Nabout showed what he was capable of, and Sacid Cicek continued his



Pascoe Vale’s Brenno Polatti was not afraid of putting a foot in against Hume’s giant striker Turhan Sumbul.

great scoring form from last week (three goals against Balwyn) as the scoring was ended at a respectable 9-5. For the second week running, Pascoe Vale have been in a strong position in the second half and have let their opposition back into the game.

It’s not the form you want ahead of the cut-throat FOz Cup competition in two rounds time. It also doesn’t get any easier for Hume who take on North Melbourne next week in a title defining game.

FC Balwyn v North Melbourne FC (4-11)

Inspired by watching their fierce title rivals just get over the line in the previous game, North knew that they had to bring their A-game against Balwyn and to not let their guard down and bring their A-game they did!

Along with a squad of 10 players with the long awaited return of Kui Mu who has been out with injury since round 2! Balwyn on the other hand were without in-form defender Mark Saric who was unavailable. As he has done in the last 4 weeks, North’s talisman, Fernando De Moraes opened the scoring as he nutmegged Tony Saric and then rounded keeper, Frano Saric with ease. Balwyn’s main avenue to goal, Jason Barrientos levelled the scores as he scored against his old side and more importantly against his brother Jonathan.

Balwyn were soon put back in their place as Fernando put away a well worked team goal from a free-kick on the edge of the ‘D’. Singles from Hara Yoshinao, Tiago, Jon Barrientos and Adam Cooper seemed to really put the clamp down on Balwyn as they were staring down at a 6-1 deficit, but a well timed strike from distance by David Straniero saw the whites going into the break with a sniff of a comeback.

The second half opened with the Barrientos brothers embarking on a duel of their own as to who could out score the other as Jon struck his second for North, then brother Jason followed suit as his delicate shot from an angle outdid keeper Christos Apostolakis. To get back into the game, Balwyn used their physical strength to out muscle their more technical opponents, but it just played into the hands of North as they were gifted with a second spot penalty - due to a 6th foul by Balwyn – which Fernando converted with ease making it 8-3.

Jon Barrientos claimed his third of the game when he turned Ben Bodo and snuck the ball in at the near post, not before brother Jason could equalise with a close finish in the ‘D’ also for his third.

As the final whistle grew nearer, North, better yet Fernando was gifted with yet another penalty for a 7th foul which the



Prahran’s keeper Michael Chami saves from Albert Park’s Jaffar Al Sari’s close range effort.

Brazilian maestro coolly converted into the top left corner. Alex Jankovic’s tap in moments later ended the lads of Balwyn’s misery making it 11-4 at full time. Now their focus goes to the big clash against Ashburton next week where their chances of survival are just hanging by a thread.

North on the other hand will only have to defeat Hume next week to finally lift their first major piece of silverware under Milton Sakkos. Either way, there will be big happenings next week!

Fitzroy FC v Metropolitan FC (6-8)

The final game to wrap up the round 20 fixture was definitely the glamour clash of the night as the 4th and 3rd ranked teams of the league in Fitzroy and Metropolitan went to battle.

Fitzroy had yet another new keeper making his debut as Rob Havercroft took the number one jersey and George Mc Heileh also made a return. The Sky Blues of Metropolitan after having seven players last week were now reduced to the bare minimum of 5 as Jusuf Avdic missed his first game of the season. Avdic’s absence seemed to hurt Metro almost immediately as Lucas Johns got onto Richie Ferguson’s corner and caught keeper Dardan Djokaj off guard. Irzad Spijodic then opened his sides account as he completed a quick 1-2 with Tomo Grgic and slot past an advancing Rob Havercroft.

After holding their own against the more experienced Metropolitan, Fitzroy’s endeavour was rewarded when Richie Ferguson beat Grgic’s slide tackle and shot underneath Djokaj from close range. But that’s as good as it got for the boys in yellow as the sky blues added four unanswered goals through Spijodic, Dino Redzepovic and a double from Alija Redzepovic made it 5-2 at half time.

Fitzroy looked completely deflated at the opening of the second period and their cause wasn’t helped when Grgic made a terrific run down the left flank to put his shot past Havercroft from a ridiculous angle.

A Johnny Nikolakoudis free-kick got the Fitzroy train shifting into the right gear making it 6-3, then when Johns and Ferguson completed their doubles, it made for a very interesting finale. But it was Metro who would prove victorious as the man-of-the-match, Tomo Grgic bagged his second and Alija’s third put the three points beyond doubt.

Nikolakoudis’ late goal could only be counted as a consolation making it a respectable 8-6 result. With that win, Metro have now consolidated third spot on the ladder, as many believe is their rightful place.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	20	18	1	0	151	63	88	58
2 Pascoe Vale FC	19	16	2	1	125	51	74	50
3 Metropolitan FC	20	13	1	6	125	106	19	38
4 CF Brunswick	20	12	1	7	116	100	21	36
5 Fitzroy FC	20	11	1	8	113	101	8	34
6 FC Prahran	20	9	2	9	124	99	25	29
7 FC Essendon	20	7	2	11	105	149	-44	23
8 Ashburton FC	20	6	3	11	103	125	-22	21
9 Hume FC	20	5	2	13	94	120	-25	17
10 FC Balwyn	19	5	1	13	75	99	-24	16
11 FC Melbourne	20	5	1	14	64	114	-50	16
12 Albert Park FC	20	2	2	16	83	153	-70	8

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS Round 20 Wed Sep 14th

• 6:30 FC Melbourne v Ashburton FC	3 - 5
• 7:15 FC Essendon v CF Brunswick	6 - 9
• 8:00 FC Prahran v Albert Park FC	11 - 4
• 8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v Hume FC	9 - 5
• 9:30 FC Balwyn v North Melbourne FC	4 - 11
• 10:15 Fitzroy FC v Metropolitan FC	6 - 8

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 21 Wed Sep 21st

• 6:30 FC Melbourne v FC Essendon	
• 7:15 Fitzroy FC v Albert Park FC	
• 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Metropolitan FC	
• 8:45 FC Prahran v CF Brunswick	
• 9:30 FC Balwyn v Ashburton FC	
• 10:15 Hume FC v Nth Melbourne FC	

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) A. Stevanovic FCE	44
2) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	43
3) M. Avram AFC	42
4) J. Blackburn AFC	41
5) J. Da Silva PVFC	36

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MFS



Soccer Fever



Kanga Cup



ZYGO Boots



Football West



ALANIC



Green Gully



Heidelberg United



Fawkner Blues



Sunshine Georgies



South Melb



Eastern Lions



Melb Knights



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